

Submission
No 188

**INQUIRY INTO EDUCATION AMENDMENT (ETHICS
CLASSES REPEAL) BILL 2011**

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 22/02/2012

Partially Confidential

We are from _____ Public School
and we want to **keep Primary Ethics**

It is already **part of our school**
It is already a **successful alternative** for students not taking SRE
It is already being taught by **committed volunteers**
It is already **engaging** year 5 & 6 students in **critical thinking**
It is already **surprising parents** with thoughtful topics being brought up at home
It is already part of the **Principal's vision** of our school's **opportunities**

Principal - Paul Petersen

As Principal of _____ Public School I am very happy to support the continuation of the Primary Ethics Classes here at _____ PS.
It would be a shame to see the choices currently offered to families at our school withdrawn on a political whim.
On both a personal and professional level, I am strongly in favour of maintaining the option for students to avail themselves of the current options where they can attend the Special Religious Education classes or the Primary Ethics classes.

Volunteer Primary Ethics Teacher - Shelley O'Neil

I trained to teach Primary Ethics so that the children who don't spend the 30 minutes of SRE time meaningfully engaged in an enquiry of themselves and their culture like their religious counterparts, had an equal opportunity to do so. Now I teach Primary Ethics because it is incredibly interesting and rewarding, the children love it and I honestly think it nourishes their educational experience in a unique way. I think it would be unfair to deprive the children who don't opt for SRE of the Primary Ethics experience.

Student -

I love ethics and I have learnt a lot. I learnt the real meaning of morals and philosophy. Ethics is a great opportunity for non religious people.

I enjoy going to ethics every Tuesday because it is a fun way to interact with each other and learn about morals.

Student -

Primary Ethics...made us all think about life in a different way and broaden our minds.

Student -

I think ethics is great because you can share your ideas and people respect you, whatever you say and it really fun. We also have different communications about the world and things that happen now and then.



Morals are the sense of right or wrong, according to your conscience, but it's also like it's in your body, making you feel a certain way.

Student

Ethics is a great way to talk about whats right and wrong, whether its stealing, lying, being greedy or just mean, you can discuss what you think and can always change your mind. It doesn't matter what your opinion is as long as you get out there and have a go.

Student -

Every week I look forward to ethics classes. Its a fun way to talk about morals. Primary ethics has taught me that there is no right or wrong answer and that its ok to change your mind. Some topics that we discuss are stealing, lying, graffiti and being greedy. I really love ethics and hope that I can do it again in the future.



Parent - Barbara Martusewicz

Tommy has found them meaningful and fun. Children love to think when presented with moral problems that they can relate to. It's fantastic that teachers have been prepared to train and develop the course and I admire their commitment. For those children who did not attend scripture, the classes have filled a wanting gap.

Primary Ethics is an **already important** part of our school life

Please **don't take it away** from us!