

**Submission  
No 391**

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

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**Date received:** 27/02/2012

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**GPSC2 GPSC2 - Submission**

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**To:** <gpscno2@parliament.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 2/27/2012 12:19 AM  
**Subject:** Submission

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**General Purpose Standing Committee No 2****re: Education Amendment (Ethics Classes Repeal) Bill2011**

Parents and teachers are entitled to know the content of any proposed course to be introduced into NSW schools. This is particularly necessary in any 'ethics' course since our ethics influence our behaviour.

While it is sad but true that a small minority of parents teach their children to bully, lie and cheat, surely the vast majority of parents in Australia want their children to grow up to be responsible citizens, ie honest, law abiding, trustworthy, industrious, generous and kind. In other words, they subscribe to the Golden Rule, do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

The question that must be addressed before any 'ethics' course is introduced into our schools is, quite simply, whose ethics?

Are our children going to be taught the values that our Western societies are based on, or those that conflict with those values?

Was it ethical to do what the Nazis did? The Nuremberg Trials demonstrated quite clearly that many of those found guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity believed that they were acting ethically, according to their, albeit warped, world view.

What about terrorists? Don't they too have a code of 'ethics'.

These examples are extreme, but they show how dangerous ideas can be when there are no boundaries, no objective right and wrong. Australia was built on Christian ethics. If there are to be new 'ethics' in this country, we need to know what they are, so parents, teachers, legislators etc, can make informed decisions.

Children who are withdrawn from the current scripture classes in our schools, certainly need constructive activities. To simply lump them all in vague 'ethics' classes is not the answer.

As a parent, grandparent and former primary school teacher, I wish to strongly urge the repeal of the ALP-Green Ethics Course Bill.

Mrs Gail Instance