

**Submission
No 19**

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

Name: Ms Lindsey Hatchwell

Date received: 2/12/2011

Dear Beverly Duffy,

I am at a loss to understand why a religious zealot like Fred Nile can cause such a reaction into ethics classes. My child's school is yet to get an "Ethics" class since they were allowed and she is still left bored out of her brain unable to make decent learning use of that allocated lesson time. In fact she was made to go to the end of year scripture service which I find totally offensive and contrary to our request of no scripture lessons.

I have no problem with religion being taught in schools – if it is a broad lesson covering all of the world's religions and belief systems including atheism, agnosticism etc. This way children can make their own minds up and not be brain washed by parents own beliefs (remember a belief is only a belief and not a FACT) Specific religion, belief structure should be something that is taught outside the education system.

I cannot understand why the committee to examine ethics classes is only examining them and not the SRE classes as well. These need to be investigated to make a thorough, rounded observation of the whole issue. In my experience as a helper at school from time to time, the verbal rubbish I have heard out of scripture teachers mouths is disgusting – smiting, beheading (and acting these things out by the way), inference that certain groups of people are evil, "we are the good ones" (to paraphrase) etc, etc. What a load of codswallop and it is incredibly divisive, which is what I thought public education was against.

So I would like to see an unbiased parallel investigation into SRE and maybe while you are at it, look at what really goes on with the chaplains in these schools too, as I know out my way one of the chaplains at one of our local Primary schools has been actively promoting religious based High School selection and has been very derogatory in regards to the Public system -this is a fact (and the funny thing is the public system employs him)

If this act is repealed – the lucky few schools that have these classes in place will be back to the huge time wasting situation that my daughter is still currently in. I feel we are not really living in a forward thinking country and that the dark ages are just around the corner with this lack of respect for the rest of the population that do not follow a "God", yet we at every turn have to be respectful of every non-evidence based belief system out there. Should this act be repealed this would be discrimination against all of the non scripture children and it would be entirely unacceptable to me and the thousands of parents who feel teaching should be a well rounded, unbiased entity to produce well rounded, independent thinking children. Please stop letting the lunatic minority control the secular basis of our country. They after all are scared that if people are given a choice they may lose "customers".

Regards,

Lyndsey Hatchwell