

Submission  
No 328

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 23/02/2012

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Partially Confidential

I am a father. I am also an atheist.

I want what's best for both my daughters and the community. In particular, I believe in a broad education that encompasses more than facts and figures, but is an education that facilitates both critical thinking and social well being.

I believe strongly that society is best served by its members having a common understanding about:

- what it means to have an ethical framework
- how we can evaluate our own moral codes, without resorting to religion
- commonly held, non-religious moral codes

I therefore believe that ethics should be taught to all students.

I am undecided on the issue whether I will allow my daughters to attend religious studies. This should be a free choice, but I do not consider this to be a free choice if my daughters will receive no education during the periods where they would otherwise have had religious studies. Education should be a fundamental right. For the public education authorities to withdraw teaching from students is a punishment for both the students and the families.

I also believe that the responsibility of teaching ethics should lie with the public education authorities. It should be properly funded and not have to be taught by volunteers.