

**Submission
No 374**

INQUIRY INTO EDUCATION AMENDMENT (ETHICS CLASSES REPEAL) BILL 2011

Name: Mrs Helen Pellegrino

Date received: 23/02/2012

I write as the ethics Coordinator for _____ Public School and as a parent of 4 children, 2 of whom attend _____ and 2 younger-than-school-age children in response to the inquiry into ethics classes.

- While ethics classes were recently evaluated, no such inquiry into SRE has taken place. While we should strive for the highest standards in public education, this should take place across the curriculum, not repeatedly in one area, whilst other areas of the timetable are allowed to run without scrutiny.
- My school age children are currently in K and Y2. No secular alternative is available for my children and they are very young to be reading to themselves for 30 mins, without guidance and teacher input. I wish for my children to receive a well planned and evaluated education while they are in school. My belief as teacher with 15 years experience, is ALL learning in school should be planned for progression across the school, each year group and for each child. To remove the ethics option before it is even provided at this age, would discriminate against my children, since those children in scripture are presumably receiving an education which meets their needs and is subject to evaluation, by the teacher, at this time-slot.
- As the coordinator at my local public school, for philosophical ethics classes, I receive regular feedback from the ethics teacher. The children are engaged with the subject matter and making good progress. This has been evidenced by the start of the new Y5 intake, who are not used to the philosophical enquiry method. A gap between the ability of new and previous students, in this area, has been observed and steps have been taken to correct this. This is evidence of ongoing evaluation by the class teacher and shows the development of students who have been in the class some time.