

**Submission  
No 33**

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

**Name:** Mr Fergus Hardingham

**Date received:** 9/12/2011

---

I would like to submit to the committee reviewing the retention of ETHICS CLASSES in NSW SCHOOLS that the teaching of ethics to children is vital if we wish to improve our society and improve our children's future.

I think the following definition of ethics should be considered:

"A branch of philosophy dealing with values relating to human conduct, with respect to the rightness and wrongness of certain actions and to the goodness and badness of the motives and ends of such actions."

It appears to many in the community and me included, that ethics is seen as a threat to religion classes. This is not the case. Ethics is a chance for those children in a secular state education system to learn the rights and wrongs of behaviour without a religious view (as the teaching of religion does not necessary involve teaching of ethics).

The above definition provided does not mention religion at all.

If parents of children want their children exposed to both Ethics classes and Religion, then they have the capacity to allow them to attend Ethics classes in the NSW secular state education system and then take them to Sunday school classes on the weekend.

If we are to discuss the repeal of classes, then I would suggest the repeal of religion classes in our NSW secular state education system. I would prefer for tax payer money be directed to education (reading and writing etc and getting that right) and learning about correct conduct and respect to the rightness and wrongness of certain actions and to the goodness and badness of the motives and ends of such actions...rather than the teachings of a certain religion.

If people wish to practice their religion as they should be allowed to, it should be done in their own time and their teachings kept out of our NSW secular state education system.

Thank you.