

Submission  
No 431

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

**Name:** Mr Simon Harvey

**Date received:** 24/02/2012

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Partially Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the parent of a child at \_\_\_\_\_ Public School in Sydney I wish to add my voice to this discussion in favour of ethics classes being made available to all students who are otherwise eligible to participate in scripture (SRE) classes. Therefore I formally request that you do not repeal the Education Act (ethics) 2010.

It annoys me that this matter even requires debate - if it's OK for those parents who wish their children to receive religious indoctrination to receive it within our schools, then it should automatically follow that for those of us who don't want our children in scripture that they should be allowed to learn the principles that are compatible with our chosen ways of living - that is to say, they should be allowed to study ethics instead of idling away an hour "colouring in".

I personally do not approve of scripture classes being taught at all within our state school system - religious education, if a parent feels it is important, should indeed be the responsibility of individual parents, and the religious organisations of which they are members. Our society, like many the world over, would be a far happier place if we ceased perpetuating the mystical and divisive concepts of "religion" upon our most valuable and vulnerable resource - our own kids.

Simon Harvey.