

Supplementary  
Submission  
No 353a

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

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Children come to school at the age of 5 having been immersed in the values of his or her family. Parents and the home environment lay the foundations for the child. I work in disadvantaged schools, and a child who is hungry and does not have any food will take food from others regardless of concepts of right or wrong.

The ethics curriculum supports children to bring to their awareness societal and cultural norms in discussion with peers and a knowledgeable elder (the teacher). It's action orientated learning and so much more effective than someone 'laying down the law'. The golden opportunity for students in ethics classes is to take ideas and pull them apart and scrutinise why they are so important. It certainly stretches and strengthens their empathy muscles.