

**Submission
No 85**

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

Name: Mrs Beryl M Sewell

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18.1.12.

To The Parliamentary Enquiry
C/- G.P.S.C 2 N.S.W. Parliament House,
Macquarie St., Sydney N.S.W. 2000,
I wish to state my reasons for
protesting against the Ethics Course
provided for N.S.W. Primary Schools.

1. The course content is not
open in the Curriculum for every
teacher to be au fait with its
content. Every Public School teacher
needs to be fully aware of the
content being placed before the
students so teachers can support
the teaching programme to make it
fruitful in their classes + contact
with the students. In a school
teachers are a team working to
provide mentoring for developing
young students.

Likewise the parents need
to know what is being taught to
their children. Why secrecy we
should all be aware what is being
taught to our children. I was a
Queensland State School Teacher and

the whole Curriculum was in my hand - open to all.

2.

From the brief glimpse I have had of the Course Content I perceive that our children/students are being raised anti-law and anti-government e.g. "if it feels good, do it" - where the constraint? e.g. "I need to respect the rights of others": e.g. their right to life, to freedom from harassment, respect for their personal property, respect for the laws of the land, or knowledge of the process of government and respect for law enforcement services and community programmes.

3.

The Course is called Ethics - my understanding (as a teacher & as a pupil) says "ethics" has to do with being a person therefore the course needs to teach me my responsibilities as a person and what is good behaviour socially, physically, sexually, mentally, 'spiritually' and in community. that I be the very

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best adult person eventually - my real aim as a child of about 8 yrs. when I choose my life role model. so the ethos must be lived out before me

4. As part of my responsibilities as a person is my role in the community of a democratic country purporting to have "government for the people for the people". so civics must needs be added to 'ethos' so I know my responsibilities as a citizen

(a) of the local area - Council

(b) of the state area - N.S.W Govt

(c) of the Australian area - Federal Govt

It needs to teach me from whence our local Government Councils developed democratically over time & how previous democratic government is.

I would expect each pupil/student to know how our democratic system of Government "by the people for the people" works and what safe guards and watch dogs it has set in place to ensure

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fair and honest government that does not neglect its minority groups in its application of fairness and justice..

As this so called Ethics course does not do this it has no place in our schools. because it is failing the students and the future security of the Australian Government system.

Young people are looking for knowledge of justice and true self-government so they can align themselves with the best there is on offer and prepare to better it.

The students need

- (a) knowledge of the past hard work to develop good government
- (b) How our election system works
- (c) How the State Govt system works
- (d) How our Constitution was planned
- (e) How the Federal Govt works.
- (f) Be reminded they are the next generation watch dogs of good government by their voting power & voting knowledge.

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(5)

This so called Ethics course needs to be redone to include the above points of teaching and delete the selfish angle - "if it feels right do it" because I might feel right to punch your nose but now my respect for the rights of others ~~now~~ newly being taught in place of selfish wishes will prevent me from attacking you - change it for your own protection if not for the protection of all of sundry.

I submit that the present Ethics Course be redesigned to give Primary students clear teaching on individual human rights and rights of citizenship with its responsibilities; the 3 tier system of Local, State & Federal Government, the Voting & election system & its history of Democratic Government.

In Queensland I learned these in the Curriculum Study of Civics and morals. In Primary school beginning with the Witan in Anglo-Saxon England we went to year 8.

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in those days - leaving Primary at 15.
so the course would need to extend to High
School years 7 and 8.

In good faith and in great
desire for a healthy nation of young
people who value Govt by the people
for the people and the right to free
speech and action, religious freedom
and freedom from want and from
fear, all good things embodied in
our Australian Constitution

yours faithfully

Beryl M. Sewell

(Kay-Sewell)