

**Submission
No 201**

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

Name: Mrs Leigh Austin

Date received: 21/02/2012

I am writing to you re the above Bill and would like to express my concern for the 'continuation' of Ethics Classes in our Primary Schools.

For some years I taught Scripture in our local Primary School. These classes were conducted with the utmost professionalism - training was imperative at that time for each person to teach scripture. I believe this still to be the case. The relationship between Principal, Teachers and Scripture Teachers was a very good one, we were able to run assemblies for special times on the Christian Calendar and this was favorable with the teachers who would take it in turns with infants and primary assemblies to attend (two were run consecutively before morning recess on these occasions).

It is disappointing to note that from somewhere it has been decided to run ethics classes for children who do not attend scripture. The school where I taught had over 1,000 pupils and very few did not attend scripture classes. No matter what your faith or beliefs are, we are a Christian nation, we have our foundations built on these principals. Today it is only fair that we give children the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ so that they can make up their own minds. Ethics are taught in the scripture classes as all good, fair and right living comes out of the bible. It seems very significant that now we have these classes run as an alternative with Christ missing. I cannot see why we have to change what was working well. It seems only a few people are unhappy with scripture and as usual are making the biggest noise.

I am sure the education department can run 'ethics' as a subject....but why does it have to compete with scripture. Children have as much right to hear about Jesus Christ from his followers, then they can choose what they want to believe. I have spoken with young adults who have signed petitions against the ethics classes as they have said they have become Christians because of the scripture classes they attended in their formative years at primary school.

I am looking forward to seeing a call back to Scripture and for the ethics classes to be 'sidelined' that would be the right decision for the mind, body, spirit of our children to be exercised!!