Submission No 443

INQUIRY INTO EDUCATION AMENDMENT (ETHICS CLASSES REPEAL) BILL 2011

Name: Mr Thorin Munro

Date received: 24/02/2012

I oppose the repeal of the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010.

I am a parent and volunteer Primary Ethics Teacher and have witnessed first hand the positive response of children to the ethics curriculum, their intelligent and enjoyable debates about meaningful issues, and the confidence and skill to think critically and independently about ethical issues.

What a valuable activity the Ethics Classes are, compared to the old regime of enforced 'doing nothing' for students who choose non scripture (as I experienced through my own schooling 1975-88).

The curriculum is professionally developed, teaching to the curriculum is made easy by the thorough documentation and training, and children respond very well to the content. Does Scripture have the same level of thoroughness and professional construction? This would be a very interesting comparison to make.

As a parent of Primary aged children, and an active volunteer supporting the Ethics Program, I fully endorse it and can not imagine any legitimate grounds for repealing the legislation supporting its place in schools.