

**Submission  
No 51**

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

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The fact that the government is even conducting this inquiry is beyond me. If people have a right to have their child/children do scripture then they have too also have a right to have them taught Ethics, especially if the household is non-religious. Ethics are a basic and necessary part of life, without it is not some thing I want to think about. It seems to me that some people are concerned about the decline of religion as the attached document from the ABS shows, and it seems are clutching at straws to try and keep what little hold they still have. I am not concerned whether people chose to send their child/ children to scripture so why should they have a say in me sending my child to Ethics lessons. Please let common sense prevail and do not buckle to the loud minority again.

## 12.26 MAJOR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS

| Census year | Christianity |          |       |       |                 |  |        | Total<br>'000   |
|-------------|--------------|----------|-------|-------|-----------------|--|--------|-----------------|
|             | Anglican     | Catholic | Other | Total | Other religions | Not stated/<br>No inadequate<br>religion y described |        |                 |
|             | %            | %        | %     | %     | %               | %  | %      |                 |
| 1901        | 39.7         | 22.7     | 33.7  | 96.1  | 1.4             | 0.4  | (a)2.0 | <b>3,773.8</b>  |
| 1911        | 38.4         | 22.4     | 35.1  | 95.9  | 0.8             | 0.4  | (a)2.9 | <b>4,455.0</b>  |
| 1921        | 43.7         | 21.7     | 31.6  | 96.9  | 0.7             | 0.5  | (a)1.9 | <b>5,435.7</b>  |
| 1933        | 38.7         | 19.6     | 28.1  | 86.4  | 0.4             | 0.2  | 12.9   | <b>6,629.8</b>  |
| 1947        | 39.0         | 20.9     | 28.1  | 88.0  | 0.5             | 0.3  | 11.1   | <b>7,579.4</b>  |
| 1954        | 37.9         | 22.9     | 28.5  | 89.4  | 0.6             | 0.3  | 9.7    | <b>8,986.5</b>  |
| 1961        | 34.9         | 24.9     | 28.4  | 88.3  | 0.7             | 0.4  | 10.7   | <b>10,508.2</b> |
| 1966        | 33.5         | 26.2     | 28.5  | 88.2  | 0.7             | 0.8  | 10.3   | <b>11,599.5</b> |
| 1971        | 31.0         | 27.0     | 28.2  | 86.2  | 0.8             | 6.7  | 6.2    | <b>12,755.6</b> |
| 1976        | 27.7         | 25.7     | 25.2  | 78.6  | 1.0             | 8.3  | 11.4   | <b>13,548.4</b> |
| 1981        | 26.1         | 26.0     | 24.3  | 76.4  | 1.4             | 10.8   | 11.4   | <b>14,576.3</b> |
| 1986        | 23.9         | 26.0     | 23.0  | 73.0  | 2.0             | 12.7   | 12.4   | <b>15,602.2</b> |
| 1991        | 23.8         | 27.3     | 22.9  | 74.0  | 2.6             | 12.9   | 10.5   | <b>16,850.3</b> |
| 1996        | 22.0         | 27.0     | 21.9  | 70.9  | 3.5             | 16.6   | 9.0    | <b>17,752.8</b> |
| 2001        | 20.7         | 26.6     | 20.7  | 68.0  | 4.9             | 15.5   | 11.7   | <b>18,769.2</b> |

(a) Includes 'object to state'.

Source: ABS data available on request, Census of Population and Housing.