

Submission
No 72

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

Name: Mrs Tara Zimmer

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Partially Confidential

To whom it may concern,

I am currently the Ethics teacher at _____ and feel strongly about the importance of having Ethics classes. I believe that Fred Niles sees Ethics as a threat to scripture classes, when in fact it has nothing to do with religion, as it is inquiry based learning, where students talk about morals and values in everyday life. I see this important for the future and society of today, and should be incorporated into the main curriculum.

Here is some information regarding group learning and the benefits of it. Learning is enhanced in a social environment as students construct knowledge and understanding by thinking and verbalising their own thoughts; this is only effective when learners are guided through scaffolding and questioning by the teacher. Cognitive constructivism is influenced by Piaget as a theory of learning, where learners do not learn from receiving information but instead constructing their own knowledge (Eggen & Kauchak, 2010).

Social constructivism is similar in constructing knowledge, but it is greatly influenced by Vygotsky theories in that learners learn through social interaction. They learn socially and internalise it later. J. Martin (as cited in Eggen & Kauchak, 2010 p.227) states that social constructivism is "the view most influential in guiding the thinking of educational leaders and teachers".

As a parent, I am disgusted by Fred Niles' actions and the time wasting he is causing, I hope the government resolve this soon and we can get on with what really matters.

Yours sincerely

Tara Zimmer

References:

Eggen, P., & Kauchak, D. (2010). Educational psychology: Windows on classrooms (8th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.