

Submission
No 311

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

Name: Mr Bill de Mars & Ms Harriet Ketley

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Partially Confidential

GPSC2 GPSC2 - Submission into retention of ethics classes

From: "Harriet Ketley"
To: <gpscno2@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 2/22/2012 11:12 PM
Subject: Submission into retention of ethics classes

Dear Committee Members,

We write as concerned parents of primary school students who are presently expecting the introduction of ethics classes into their local primary school, At the outset we must say that we find it extraordinary and bizarre that there is even such a thing as an inquiry into the issue to start with. Given that ethics has been a fundamental part of a child's education for hundreds of years in other countries and has been for many years been offered as part of the school curriculum in other Australian states, it is an unfortunate waste of public resources for such a matter to be the subject of an inquiry in NSW to start with. Should we chose on behalf our children that they not attend SRE classes, and should the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010 be repealed, our children will be denied the same access to education that is afforded children who share particular religious beliefs. This is unfair and discriminatory and should not be part of a state education system which values tolerance and diversity of opinion. We strongly support the retention of ethics as part of the NSW public education system.

Harriet Ketley and Bill de Mars