

Submission  
No 143

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 13/02/2012

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Partially Confidential

13 February 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this submission as a concerned parent of primary school and preschool aged children. I wish to support the continuation of Ethics classes in schools. It should be a legal requirement for schools to offer this, in the same way that they are required to offer religious education.

Like a great many other Australians, both my partner and I are atheists. We do not want our children to be educated in just one particular religious belief system – beliefs we don't adhere to ourselves.

But nor do we want them wasting their valuable education sitting around waiting for other children to have scripture classes. This feels like 'dead' time to me. My son Liam often comments how boring this part of his school week can be. He would much prefer to be stimulated, engaged and inspired as per his normal school lessons.

It would be much more beneficial to my children's education if Ethics classes could be continued or even extended in schools as an alternative to religious scripture. I believe Ethics classes are key to a better quality, more relevant and more rounded education for my children and for many modern Australian families. Ethics classes do not compete with our beliefs and would be relevant to the modern, technological-based world that our children grow up in.

I would also like for my children to learn about all religions so that they could understand the viewpoints of other Australian citizens and people around the world. This would also allow them to make up their own minds about their beliefs. Unfortunately this option is not currently available to us. I think it should be.

Please keep Ethics classes in Australian schools. Please also consider offering a class geared to more general education about all religions.

Regards,