

Submission
No 206

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

Name: Mr D and Mrs V Williams

Date received: 21/02/2012

The Hon. Marie Ficarra M.L.C.
Parliamentary Inquiry.
C/O GPSC 2.
N.S.W. Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney. N.S.W.

18th February 2012

Dear Madam,

I write re. proposed ETHIC CLASSES as a substitute for RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION CLASSES in State Schools.

Australia Law was established from the traditions of English Law.
(Gov.Philip/Macquarie etc) RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION was recognised as an essential element in the WELL BEING of the Citizen in particular and the society as 'a whole'.

THE CHURCH played an important and significant role in the establishment of morals/ethics in maintaining a harmonious society in which peoples of different race, creed, and education could peacefully co-exist. Those who chose to step out of line deliberately or inadvertently were re-directed into the 'wise path'.

THE CHURCH & RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION played a vital role in the promotion of this harmonious existence. THE CHURCH also gave service to HOSPITALS, ORPHANAGES, WELFARE etc. Their work was well respected and Government support readily given.

TO-DAY we have in our society (regrettably some politicians) who fail to recognise or give credence to the vital roles the churches played from the outset and still provide to-day. Children were given RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION at Home, at School and within The Church. When children reached Adulthood they had the choice to decide which path they would follow! Fortunately the majority chose the 'Wise Path' following what they had learnt.

THE SIGNIFICANT POINT IS :- In the Formative years they were given wise and sound advice of which RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION formed a significant element. The attitude as to how they lived as adults were formed in their earlier years by the influence of Home, School, Church (RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION).

To-day we have Youth roaming the streets late at night, little principle, little respect for others, and creating nuisance and mischief wherever. Do we believe for a minute that allowing them to avoid RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION (Home, School, Church) is going to improve their attitude toward a better society ? I THINK NOT !

We now have more Gaols, Crime, Shootings, Suicides, Drunkenness, Drugs, Depression, and the need for more and more police, Women's Refuges, Youth Councillors/Workers --- a scary society.

Ethics classes may well be better than nothing - BUT -
Nothing will replace the value of RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION in our Homes, Schools,
Churches. If everyone went back to church --- Crime, Depression, Suicide, etc - I
claim would halve over-night. Ethics without the power to adhere to them - will fail.
MAINTENANCE OF RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION is the wise answer. I trust that our
Politicians will be wise enough to understand this Strategic Importance.

Yours faithfully,

D. & V. Williams.