

Submission
No 124

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

Name: Ms Jenny Stonier

Date received: 9/02/2012

Partially Confidential

EDUCATION AMENDMENT (ETHICS CLASSES REPEAL) BILL 2011

TERMS OF REFERENCE

That General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2 inquiry into and report on the Education Amendment (Ethics Classes Repeal) Bill 2011, and in particular: the stated objectives, curriculum, implementation, effectiveness and other related matters pertaining to the current operation of 'special education in ethics' being conducted in State schools, and whether the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010 should be repealed.

Submission to the Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee No 2

By Jenny Stonier, Primary Ethics Teacher,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry into the Primary Ethics Program. I am one of the first Ethics Teachers to be trained (Sydney February 2011) and began teaching on the _____ in February 2011. I have four daughters, one of which is enrolled in Ethics at our school. I am the President of the Primary School P&C and am myself enrolled to study Philosophy through Macquarie University.

As a Primary Ethics teacher I have been thrilled to witness the enthusiasm and intelligence that Grade 5 and 6 children have shown in ethics classes. They understand the ethical points quickly and they recognize the ideas involved in building on each other's ideas and finding things from their own experiences to support or challenge their own point of view. The work we do in understanding discrimination helps them in any of their other subjects which require looking at a problem from different angles.

Over the past year I the school community – students, staff and parents (via the P&C) are very welcoming and supportive of the program. Our principal _____ is a great fan of the Ethics lessons and always tries to sit in on the classes as she values them so highly.

I urge you to support the continuation of the Ethics program and remove the uncertainty that the demand for this inquiry has caused so we can get on with the job of improving the program and giving all students in the state the opportunity to participate in this very worthwhile addition to our children's education.

Thank you.

Jenny Stonier