

Submission  
No 352

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

**Name:** Mrs Nicola Stanford

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Partially Confidential

**SUBMISSION: Inquiry on the Education Amendment (Ethics Classes Repeal) Bill 2011**

**FROM: Nicola Stanford, Ethics Coordinator, [redacted] Public School**

**FACTS AT [redacted] PUBLIC SCHOOL**

I have been involved with advocating for lessons in ethics as an option for children who opt out of SRE since early 2010 through my involvement with the [redacted] Public School P&C. In early 2010 the P&C carried out an online survey of [redacted] Public School parents and of 109 responses 84% said they would enrol their children in ethics classes. This result led the P&C to pass a motion in favour of ethics classes at on 18 May 2010.

In January 2011 I was engaged by Primary Ethics to recruit teachers and coordinate ethics classes at [redacted] Public School. Since February 2011 ethics has been an option for Years 5 and 6. Last year 21 children enrolled in ethics. It was very successful and has the full support of our Principal

In 2012 the total school roll at [redacted] Public School is 616 and 162 of those students are non-scripture students - 26%. This year 30 Year 5 and 6 children are enrolled in two ethics classes. The classes are taught by two highly capable and dedicated voluntary teachers who have completed a rigorous screening and training process.

In Term 3 I have plans to start two more classes for Years 3 and 4. I have already recruited two more volunteers to teach them. Then at last I will have a choice for my daughter in Year 4 on Wednesday mornings.

#### **RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION**

I recommend that the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010 should not be repealed. The provision of ethics classes is a long overdue initiative which is providing a worthwhile grounding in ethical reasoning and debate for many students who have opted out of SRE. Our society can only benefit from this.