

Submission
No 9

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

Name: Ms Vanessa Thomas

Date received: 1/12/2011

Partially Confidential

1 December 2011

Dear Sir,

Investigation into Primary Ethics Classes in NSW

Please be advised that I am a mother of three primary aged children who currently sit out of SRE at my direction. It came to my attention that their choice to rejoin after a period of opting out was instigated primarily through the enticement of lolly rewards by the Scripture "teacher". I find this an unacceptable practice, yet it is the case that many of the current practices of Scripture "teachers" are not compatible with many parents' wishes or consent. A case in point is the recent assertion in a [redacted] school by one SRE "teacher" that Santa is a mythical figure that parents choose to lie to their children about. Not surprisingly, this was not appreciated by many parents, including those who children do not attend that particular "teacher's" class, but who heard this "fact" in the playground. This was, in my opinion, highly unethical behaviour on the part of the SRE "teacher".

The Ethics program has been evaluated independently. As you would be aware, all concerns have been reviewed and acted upon to produce the most educationally and ethically sound critical inquiry and discussion of moral issues in a classroom environment that NSW has ever seen. Don't deny my children the right to learn to respectfully question moral issues and learn to discuss and participate in constructive and productive dialogue. This is a rare opportunity for meaningful learning that will benefit my children into their tertiary studies and future life.

Yours sincerely,

Vanessa Thomas

Concerned Mother