

**Submission
No 258**

INQUIRY INTO EDUCATION AMENDMENT (ETHICS CLASSES REPEAL) BILL 2011

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ETHICS PROGRAMME in NSW Public Schools

As a Public School parent, grandparent, teacher, Principal and, in retirement, a teacher in the Trial Ethics Programme, my views regarding the benefits and indeed the necessity of this programme are clear.

To even consider abandoning a well-planned programme that has redressed an historic and blatant discrimination against a group of Public School students is absurd.

As a Public School Principal I was fully aware of the ridiculous situation of being unable to plan an effective and positive educational programme for those children whose parents preferred that they don't attend SRE classes. To repeal the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act, 2010 is to return to this unfair and counterproductive educational situation, and once more abandon this group of children.

My experience with the Ethics trial programme was exciting and positive. The quality of the course design was excellent and the training required of the volunteer teachers, though obviously limited due to time restraints, was effective. In fact the quality of the selection and training of the volunteer teachers for this course seemed to greatly exceed that of the average SRE teachers in our schools.

The thorough evaluation process, both throughout the programme and at its conclusion, was indicative of the fine organisation that went into all aspects of this course. The published results of this evaluation, plus the overwhelming positive anecdotal evidence produced during and after the Ethics Trial, gives me great confidence in the ability of this programme to not only right a terrible wrong, but to add a very fair and educationally sound addition to our fine educational system.