

Submission
No 455

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

Name: Mr Karl Kinsella

Date received: 24/02/2012

Partially Confidential

The Director
General Purposes Standing Committee No.2
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

24 February 2012

Dear Director

I am very concerned that NSW is giving consideration to reducing choice and enforcing discrimination against children and families on religious grounds through the repeal of the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010.

Those who do not follow or belong to a religious group providing SRE classes in schools must continue to be provided with a meaningful and enriching option.

I have serious concerns about the selection, training, supervision and assessment of those who provide the SRE classes. I also have concerns about the curriculum and content of SRE classes. It remains to be demonstrated that the rigour being applied to Ethics classes is in fact being applied to SRE classes.

The reaction against Ethics classes appears to be driven by entrenched, vested interests who believe that their religious views should dominate NSW Public Education. That may well have been the accepted case for much of the history of NSW but it is no longer an appropriate, realistic or fair position.

There is support at my child's school, _____ Public School, for the introduction of Ethics classes and any decision to end them would be highly discriminatory, offensive and undemocratic.

Those who do not hold this view are clearly entitled to continue to send their children to SRE classes. It also holds that those who object to or are indifferent to religion are entitled to send their children to Ethics classes.

Yours Sincerely

Karl Kinsella