

Submission
No 313

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

Name: Ms Bobbie Antonic

Date received: 23/02/2012

Partially Confidential

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

Dear Director,

My name is Ms Bobbie Antonic. I am an active community member and I am a mum of three children who attend MPS. I am very concerned if the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010 were repealed.

Our school at the moment does not have Ethics Classes because we have no Ethics Co-ordinator. The students opting out of scripture this year is 61 students, as of 23rd of February 2012. It is 17.9% of students at MPS. It is growing each year. My kids partake in colouring and boredom when SRE classes are on.

It makes me angry and frustrated and unacceptable when the kids come home and tell me they were bored. "it's not fair, mum", they would say.

They have been discriminated against and my daughter has felt exclusion since kindergarten. She is now in Year 5.

Comments like these have come out of the mouths of my kids. "Mum, they have fun. They get lollies." "Mum, such and such said I wasn't a nice person because I didn't do scripture." "You will go to hell". These comments make me cry as my kids do not deserve verbal bullying from other students. I also feel bribery is at play with SRE classes i.e.: lollies.

Our school is part of The Fresh Taste Strategy and the lollies should not be a tool to keep kids in SRE classes.

My kids are good kids and we have brought them up to be nice people, they respect anyone. They do not judge anyone. I am proud of my children.

this year 2012 has no Anglican scripture teachers in Term 1. The parents of students who attend SRE, I have spoken too, feel guilty and are willing to go to Catholic SRE classes. They have been judged by parents and students; they feel they have to do SRE. Not going to SRE classes is not the end of the world. Parents and children should have the choice to partake in religion or not partake in religion. But, kids that opt out of SRE should have a meaningful class other than colouring!

It is mine and my partner's duty to teach my kids respect and about life. SRE should be voluntary, and Ethics Classes should stay.

Please do not repeal Ethics classes.

Yours Sincerely,

BOBBIE ANTONIC