

**Submission
No 97**

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

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The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2
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Dear The Hon Marie Ficarra MLC and the Members of the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2,

I am writing to strongly support the Education Amendment (Ethics Classes Repeal) Bill 2011 as proposed by Rev The Hon Fred Nile MLC.

I unequivocally oppose the Ethics classes for the following reasons:

1. The ethics course as proposed does not have any foundation in what is right or wrong and therefore totally contradicts the basis of law that defines what is right and wrong.
2. The ethics course sets up for a society in anarchy where everyone's opinion is right and no-one is wrong.
3. When the students learn in the ethics classes that their opinion is valid and relativism is the rule by which they can behave in society they will quickly discover that the Law enforcement agencies do not uphold that principle. *They will quickly discover they have been taught a lie.*
4. A society which holds to the values of relativism will soon descend into individualism, hedonism and nihilism. All you need to do is talk to people who have descended into drug abuse and crime because they believed that they were their own person and they could do as they pleased.
5. Our society is becoming more violent and lawless, a product of what I have alluded to in point 4, and our younger generation do not need to be encouraged to keep going down this road.
6. Our young people are seeking direction and we as adults are duty bound to provide some clear direction for behaviour in society – *it is healthy to provide boundaries for behaviour for a harmonious society.*
7. *The Bible is a clear guide to the foundations that make for a strong society – it is obvious that as those foundations have been removed (and are continuing to be undermined) that our society is declining morally and in every aspect of civility.*

8. As a former teacher I was always able to teach Biblical ethics in the classroom. As such teaching has been removed so the standards of behaviour, in the schools and society in general, have deteriorated along with the educational standards. Any current teacher will tell you that a large part of the school day is discipline – it was not that way 40 years ago when standards were taught by the teachers, upheld and largely respected by the students.
9. Scripture teaching needs to be strengthened so that the standards that have made our nation great will again have prominence in our society.

It is worth observing that the great champion of the abolition of the slave trade, William Wilberforce, who also campaigned to reform the morals of England stated emphatically that ethics needed a foundation and that foundation must be the Bible and that any attempt to reform morals without that foundation will fail. He claimed that reforming the morals was the first step in overturning the slave trade. Note his monumental parliamentary successes as he applied this principle and the abject failure of our society (and many others) as we have attempted to teach ethics without it!

I therefore strongly urge this committee to recommend the repeal of the Ethics Classes legislation.

Yours faithfully

Bruce Coleman

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