

**Submission  
No 117**

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

**Name:** Ms Zandra Stanton

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February 9, 2012

The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No 2  
Parliament house  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney 2000

Dear Sirs

Like many ethics teachers I would like to suggest that scrutiny of ethics material is welcome. There is nothing in the material that is any way negative. However, I would suggest that the fair thing to do is to also scrutinize the material used in SRE classes.

I am a grandmother who teaches ethics at a local public school and I am distressed at any suggestion of withdrawing ethics classes from these young children. I want your committee to understand the worth of these classes.

Before I was involved in ethics at this school, these children either cleaned the playground or sat and drew pictures in the library. Now, they are learning to think and reason on many everyday issues. To deprive them of this and send them back to doing nothing would be very discriminatory towards thousands of families.

I have experienced children in these classes increase their understanding of issues such as homelessness, fairness, and truthfulness. How can this in any way be a negative process. They are also learning how to discuss issues with reasoning and they learn how to express their own opinions. Isn't this how we create good citizens?

Please do not even consider the repeal of the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010 and send these children back to the library.

Yours sincerely

Zandra Stanton