

**Submission
No 320**

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

Name: Mr Philip MacDonnell

Date received: 24/02/2012

I am a parent of two boys in the public school system in NSW. For years my sons have been forced to sit idle wasting valuable school time while other students were engaged in SRE. Having ethics as an option brought a level playing field and recognized that my sons time is of equal value.

When the school SRE co-coordinator welcomed the ethics program to our school she said " Having ethics classes is helping to provide options and opportunities for students to learn. That is what our public school is all about." When the idea of ethics classes first arose she was unsure about it. I was very impressed by her mature and reasoned response when ethics class became a reality and she had a chance to consider it and understand the purpose of the classes.

I oppose having our students being used a political football. Education time is too valuable. If the Ethics classes are to be band then we will need to reconsider the teaching of religion in schools all together. I think we need to approach this in a fair, reasoned and mature manner. Too much of the response against the ethics classes has been driven by fear and misunderstanding. The major churches/faiths all in support of ethics as an option. Don't let a few politicians play the ethics classes off as a sacrifice to appease their fearful constituents.

I oppose the repeal of the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010.