

**Submission  
No 35**

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

**Name:** Mr Tom MacKean

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# Ethics classes

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It is my understanding that the provision of Ethics Classes in our school could be taken away before they have even begun.

Shame!

We are a non-religious family. We are not Christian or Muslim or Jewish or Buddhist. I do not wish my children, who are in Grade 5 and kindergarten, to attend scripture classes because really, which one would I send them to? None of them have any relevance to us.

Teaching children to tell right from wrong, and to understand the consequences of their actions is part of the school curriculum and part of parenting. What possible reason could your committee find that would prevent this sort of thinking from being extended into structured ethics classes?

The only reason not to teach ethics is that **if children are in ethics classes, they are not in scripture classes**. For me, this is no reason at all. My children attend a strange beast called “non-scripture” where they do absolutely nothing. They are not actually allowed to do anything useful, like homework or study, because they might somehow jump ahead of the kids off soaking up their religious propaganda.

Anything is preferable to SRE/non-scripture. Ethics classes? Sure. Extra PE lessons? OK. But best of all would be just regular schoolwork.

SRE is a concept whose time is long past. Your committee should not be investigating whether kids can go to Ethics classes instead of Religion classes; they should be investigating whether SRE should still be part of school at all.

If parents want their children to have religious instruction, let them do it on their own time, in the same way that parents who want their children to learn piano take them to outside lessons.