

**Submission
No 142**

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

Name: Ms Jo Hume

Date received: 13/02/2012

RE: Inquiry into Ethics Classes in NSW

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing as a parent of school age children, to register my strong support for ethics classes in NSW.

I am also very disappointed that state resources are being wasted on yet another inquiry into this issue. Parent and community views submitted in the last round of consultation on this issue were overwhelmingly supportive of these classes as a highly constructive alternative for children that had opted out of the scripture classes offered at their school.

Ethics classes provide children with a the opportunity to explore moral issues and examine what is good and right in a secular context. This is a much more constructive use of their time than colouring in (which is all my children are allowed to do in scripture time because under the law they are not allowed to receive any other instruction at that time...)

It appears that this time (as appeared to be the case last time) the resistance to ethics classes is being driven by religious groups that are afraid of losing "market share". This is not a valid reason to restrict kids who opt out of scripture (or whose faith is not taught) from using their time constructively.