

**Submission  
No 303**

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

**Organisation:** Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia and New Zealand  
and the Philippines

**Date received:** 27/02/2012

---

2 Bampton Avenue  
Illawong NSW 2234  
Australia



Ph: + 61 2 9543 6939  
Fax: + 61 2 9543 9354  
archbishoppaul@digisurf.net.au  
www.antiochianarch.org.au

## Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia and New Zealand and the Philippines

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP PAUL SALIBA  
PRIMATE

22/02/2012

Reverend Honourable Fred Nile  
Christian Democratic Party  
Parliament House, Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Reverend Nile,

Thank you for your concern and your leadership example on the matter of correspondence. I assure you that you have the support of our Archdiocese in the matter of repealing the Education Amendment (Ethics Classes) Bill. Furthermore we are in support of your appeal for a Scripture class to be implemented instead. We are also prayerful of your future consideration in the curriculum of the hopeful Scripture Classes

We are highly aware of the challenges facing the youth of our country today, and very particularly of the children who are in our Jurisdiction. Our young people come from a wide range of backgrounds and, like many Australians face their own unique challenges. These challenges cannot be replaced with a topic as simple as 'ethics', as the boundaries of ethics may be changed, whereas in the Lord Jesus Christ, and our Ancient Christian Fathers, clearly define these boundaries.

Society is changing, and the need to kill God and the idea of a Church is growing, and we simply cannot allow another secular nail to be placed in the coffin for the sake of political correctness. By destroying the place of Christ in a family, a family will head towards destruction. Without family and without the morals of a family-unit, Australian society will continue to head in a downward spiral, and open the gates to other, more cults, sects' religions or ideologies to execute brute force.

We are bless to be part of the Orthodox Church and with all its richness and beauty where we believe that God created all, God provides, God guides and God gives hope. We believe that today's youth are the future of this country and our churches and they need to know and take more seriously what the future holds. Despite what many people think, young people are searching for the truth of a life different from the life of present society.

The only way to help our youth accomplish their search for truth is by ensuring that authentic Christian scripture studies are made available in all schools. Without this, we are setting for our Australian way of life to diminish as the church, and in turn, the family unit to crumble away, and be replaced with something less meaningful and less-guided. Goodness is Godliness. Forgiveness, love, mercifulness, compassion, gentleness, honour etc.... This cannot be discovered unless one has this relation with God through the Church and the scriptures.

Every member of the faithful, according to his ability, is obliged to be a model and guide to others, and to the youth especially, whether as a father, a mother, a schoolmate, a fellow student at university, or a colleague at work. Without good examples, the path of hope will be closed.

Yours in the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Metropolitan Archbishop Paul  
Primate of Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines  
<http://www.antiochianarch.org.au>