

**Submission  
No 70**

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

**Name:** Ms Brigette Burk

**Date received:** 20/12/2011

---

## GPSC2 GPSC2 - Ethics Class feedback

---

**From:** "Brigette Burk" <  
**To:** "or" <gpscno2@parliament.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 12/20/2011 9:21 PM  
**Subject:** Ethics Class feedback  
**CC:** <contact@parents4ethics.org>

---

Good Morning,

I am a parent of a Year 6 Sydney boy who has just completed a year of Ethics classes.

I would very much like to submit some feedback as I understand that there is talk that they may be cancelled.

Firstly, I encouraged our son to take the Ethics class as a way for him, in a safe and respectful environment, to evaluate proposed, albeit hypothetical, situations. Only by having to question yourself are you to discover your opinions.

He will soon be at the stage i.e. the teenage years, where I am not around to encourage him toward the "right" decisions. I saw these Ethics classes as a forum for him to explore his own thought process and moral compass.

The class at his school was too big (22 students) and although the teacher was a psychologist she too found the group too big to handle constructively. I would suggest reducing the size so every child has a chance to voice their opinion. This was a comment also voiced by my son and his teacher.

Also the feedback I received from my son after inquiring every Wednesday afternoon after Ethics classes was that some of the content was just twaddle. For example, "is it stealing if you walk passed a bakery and smelt bread? Or, Is it stealing if you look up at the sky and see fireworks that someone else has paid for?"

Other content in the class was more substantial.

I applaud the Ethics classes but suggest that the content be explored further.

I do feel that this wonderful class is still in its early stages. With constructive feedback, I am certain that each semester Ethics classed will evolve as an important part of the Middle School curriculum.

As a mother, I see nothing but good having my children attend these classes. I look forward to my other 2 children participating when they reach years 5 and 6.

If you would like to discuss anything further please do not hesitate to contact me via return email.

Regards

Brigette Burk