

**Submission
No 469**

INQUIRY INTO EDUCATION AMENDMENT (ETHICS CLASSES REPEAL) BILL 2011

Name: Mrs Alison McKeown

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I wish to make a submission to the Inquiry regarding teaching ethics in NSW schools. I comment on Part A and Part B.

Part A, inquiring into the "Stated objectives . . . and other matters pertaining to current operation".

My understanding is that children attending ethics classes are highly informed by the course content and their participation. Parents and carers have expressed their satisfaction with the classes and the thinking skills that children develop in the sphere of ethics.

I wish the course had been available to me in my childhood. No such luck at the school I attended in the 1950's and 1960's.

No one has anything to fear from citizens young or old who participate in courses of instruction in ethics authored in public by the St James Ethics Centre and colleagues.

I believe ethics courses should continue in their fully-developed format that was so carefully worked out by St James Ethics Centre and others.

Part B.

"The education Amendments (Ethics) Act 2010 be repealed".

I believe ethics instruction and classes must continue in schools as we have seen in recent months. I believe children and adults need exposure to thinking about thinking, attitudes and behaviour. How fortunate are our children to receive ethics instruction that will inform them about being citizens.

I ask that the Committee retain ethics classes in their current format.

Yours sincerely,
Alison McKeown