

**Submission
No 370**

INQUIRY INTO EDUCATION AMENDMENT (ETHICS CLASSES REPEAL) BILL 2011

Name: Miss Danika Potter

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To:
The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

From:
Danika Potter

To whom it may concern,

Critical thinking is one of the most vital aspects of a free and functional society, and should be developed from childhood. The ability to analyse information and make up your own mind is so important, especially for children who are starting to develop their own ethical guidelines.

I went to Catholic primary and high schools, not due to any particular belief of my parents but rather a desire to send me to a private school. I recall being told not to question the morals and ethics that were being taught and not to be curious about other belief systems.

When all the other students were going through Communion classes, I was sent to another class with the suggestion that I could read something if I liked. There was no alternative to religion.

It took until University, where I completed a BA in Philosophy, to learn about critical thinking and ethics, an opportunity that I would have loved to have had in school.

So I ask that you don't repeal the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010. If there must be an inquiry, it should be into the current system, which until now has never been subjected to the scrutiny that the Ethics classes have.

Don't discriminate against those who don't wish to be part of a religion. Let children have the chance to participate in classes that will help them develop into responsible, empathetic and curious adults.

Sincerely,
Danika