

Submission
No 360

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 24/02/2012

Partially Confidential

The Director General
Purpose Standing Committee No. 2
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

I am writing to express my support for continuing Ethics classes at public schools.

I find it unfathomable that the previous SRE 'system' has survived for so long without serious re-evaluation. In a proudly multicultural society such as ours, it is inconsistent with our stated values of freedom of choice, expression and faith, amongst other things.

I appreciate that there is the opportunity for a representative of any religion to take this SRE slot in the school schedule, but until now those who do not wish to engage their children in a particular dogma have been excluded and therefore discriminated against. Frankly, the option of them doing nothing at all of any educational value is not a valid alternative.

Ethics provides a long-overdue alternative for those who have until now been effectively excluded. In these times it is providing a valuable opportunity for children to explore and discuss the many social issues and dilemmas which are increasingly affecting their lives.

This matter is far too important to be subjected to the extremist views of a minority 'political' party who have demonstrated intolerant and antisocial views towards other sectors of society in the past. This should not be tolerated based on simple democratic principles, if nothing else.

Regards from a concerned parent,

