

Submission
No 400

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 21/02/2012

Partially Confidential

Submission re Ethics Classes in Schools

16 February 2012

I am a retired school teacher having spent many years in both the State and Catholic school systems. I have two beautiful grandsons who attend St. Ives Public School. As their parents have chosen for them not to attend Scripture classes I am most concerned that Ethics classes should remain an option for them.

If Scripture classes are to be offered in state schools, it is only fair that in a modern society, where many people no longer have a religious affiliation, Ethics classes should be available for the children of these families.

Religion has no monopoly on the teaching of Ethics. Some of the most moral people I have known in my life have been non-believers. The teaching of Ethics is as old as Greek philosophy and does not, in itself, require a religious base. However, Ethics and sincere religious belief are both goods that contribute to a better society.

Because of my teaching experience I know that children who do not attend Scripture are either put in front of a video screen or occupy themselves in the library or elsewhere under minimal teacher supervision. Such a situation is a waste of valuable learning time and is conducive to misbehaviour.

The provision of Ethics classes is the best solution for children who don't attend Scripture and until introduced last year was long overdue. I urge the committee to respect the rights of parents and children and support the teaching of Ethics in our State Schools.

Yours sincerely