

**Submission  
No 62**

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

**Name:** Ms Suzie Ferrie

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Suzie Ferrie

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011

The Hon. Marie Ficarra  
Chair, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Hon. Ficarra,

re: Inquiry into Ethics Classes in NSW primary schools

As one of the current volunteer ethics teachers, I would like to make a comment on the proposed inquiry. I have no objection to scripture classes and I have no objection to the inquiry. But I do feel strongly about equity between the scripture and ethics programmes, hence if there is to be an inquiry, it should look at scripture classes (SRE) as well as ethics.

We received intensive training to work as ethics teachers. The curriculum material is very detailed and has been thoroughly reviewed and scrutinised by various parties. Each lesson has a substantial amount of educational content.

Currently scripture classes are not bound by the same requirements. My child attended scripture briefly and the session mainly involved colouring-in, and the children were given lollies by the teacher. Apart from the nutrition and dental issues this raises(!) I was concerned at the lack of educational content. Why is taxpayer money being spent on an inquiry into an already well-investigated programme but none into the religious alternative?

Yours sincerely,

Suzie Ferrie