

**Submission
No 406**

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

Name: Mr Paul Morris

Date received: 24/02/2012

I oppose the repeal of the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010 for the following reasons:-

1. Australia is a secular, multi cultural and multi religioned nation proudly holding it's own at the front line of scientific advancement (thankfully rejecting the church led protests on such issues as IVF, stem cell research etc) and at the forefront of issues based around morality and tolerance, again not bowing down to church spokespeople (e.g the establishment of other religions' places of worship, gay unions and more recently the very establishment of ethics classes). Why would we as a nation elect to take giant steps backwards? This is not the way forward as has been proven. We are a nation that prides itself on our progress, to damage our childrens' mental capacity by teaching superstition and folklore as actual fact is, quite simply, criminal and, further, to deny them a reasonable classroom alternative is unacceptable. The very agreement between politicians and priests in the late 19th century was a vote garnering exercise and has no place in the 21st century. Our children deserve better!

2. We cannot trust the school chaplains not to surreptitiously proselytise (Unconstitutionally) as has been evidenced with the Access ministries fiasco recently in Victoria, there is, was and always will be a hidden agenda to 'gather lambs for the flock' it is, after all one of the primary tenets of the gospels.

In conclusion, please don't take critical, intelligent free thought from our children in schools. They are our future and they deserve better.