

Submission
No 49

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

Name: Ms Martine Brieger

Date received: 7/12/2011

Partially Confidential

Martine Brieger

7 December 2011

Submission on review of Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010

I would like to express my strong support for the continuation and expansion of ethics classes for NSW public school students.

While no such class has been introduced at my children's school – School – I am still hopeful that it will be introduced in the future and provide a stimulating alternative to 'non-scripture' – a period when my children currently sit around drawing and playing with friends during school hours.

Our family are not religious which is one of the reasons we choose to send our children to a public school. However, being a non-religious family does not equate to a morality, values or ethics free zone! We are excited by the idea that our children may soon get the opportunity to study ethics in a structured and thoughtful way and cannot understand why religious organisations supposedly represented by the Rev Fred Nile are concerned or threatened by such an alternative.

To repeal this legislation would represent, to me, discrimination against non-religious families and it would seem more logical that the Committee review instead why religious studies are a compulsory part of the school timetable instead.

I have often heard about the separation of church and state but compulsory religious classes seems to fly in the face of this, as does the concept of school chaplains instead of trained non-religious counsellors or psychologists.

Thank you considering our family's position and trust that this committee will represent the interests of the *whole* community.

Regards

Martine Brieger