

**Submission
No 435**

INQUIRY INTO EDUCATION AMENDMENT (ETHICS CLASSES REPEAL) BILL 2011

Name: Ms Dominique Howard

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To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not repeal the Education Act (Ethics) 2010.

As a former secular student of the public school system I cannot convey enough how much I believe that ethics as an alternative for non-religious individuals is not only appropriate, but fair and logical. If time is to be dedicated in a secular education system to the teachings and instruction of religious doctrine to those who subscribe to these beliefs, then at the very least, there should be a curriculum designed and implemented for the individuals that choose to take advantage of their constitutional right of freedom of religion.

During my primary school experience the fact that I choose not to spend the allocated time in religious instruction resulted my peers and I having our time wasted on frivolous activities such as stapling the school magazine or on unproductive time wasting crossword puzzles and drawing.

I am also an older sibling of two primary school kids who were able to experience the fabulous work of the ethics teachers as well as spend otherwise wasted time discussing and debating important and problematic issues with their peers. I have seen first hand how much the ethics class has given both my brother and sister the chance to explore contemporary issues and fundamental problems of social ethics in a non-biased and open-minded manner.

Scripture in schools allows those who are so inclined to discuss issues of ethics as taught by their respective faiths, it gives these children the opportunity to contemplate and to think critically about their actions and the actions of others. All that I ask is that you allow those who do not subscribe to a faith or a religious doctrine the same opportunity to extent their minds and to reflect of the important issues.

Kind regards,
Dominique Howard