

**Submission
No 6**

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

Name: Mr Jon Matthews

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1st December 2011

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2
Parliament House

I am writing to express my disappointment to see another hurdle placed in front of Ethics Classes via persuasion by Fred Nile for the government to carry out an investigation of Ethics Classes. While I have no real problem to scrutinize Ethics Classes as an exercise of surety as there is nothing to hide, SRE classes have never been formally investigated since their introduction in the 19th Century. As Fred Nile seems to see this as Ethics against SRE then I think it is logical that SRE classes must be included in this investigation for it and Fred Nile to be fair.

Why is it that something derived from ancient beliefs which have no proof or evidence of any kind be placed in front of a modern curriculum developed for the world as it is today. This in itself should be more than enough reason to include SRE classes in this investigation.

If the 2010 Act for Ethics classes is repealed then we will return to the situation where children who opt out of SRE will be given nothing meaningful to do. A repeal of the Act will cause discrimination against these children. This will be an unacceptable situation for thousands of community members including parents and children.

I have spoken to many parents and grandparents who are very much in favour of Ethics classes and what they will present to their children and grandchildren and many of these people are in favour of their children attending both Ethics and SRE classes. They all feel Ethics Classes are something that will be very important for children of today and of the future to enable them to be better prepared to cope with life in general in an ever modern society.

Yours Sincerely,

Jon Matthews