

Submission
No 195

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

Name: Mr Geoff Lack
Date received: 21/02/2012

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee Number 2
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney 2000

21 February 2012

Dear Sir

INQUIRY INTO ETHICS CLASSES

Rev Fred Nile has asked for an inquiry into ethics classes for NSW students. This is to involve "*an investigation of the stated objectives, curriculum, implementation and effectiveness of the current operation of the special education in ethics...*"

I have the following comments and suggestions:

1. The results of the 2010 pilot and the 2011 implementation of ethics classes in NSW schools should provide a good basis for the inquiry.
2. Anecdotal evidence suggests the classes were well received. Last year my year 6 grandson undertook the ethics classes provided by his local public school and, despite his early reluctance, he found them both interesting and enjoyable.
3. If an assessment of these classes has not already been made by the Department of Education, then it seems useful for this inquiry to make such an assessment.
4. The inquiry should be broadened by including assessment of the Special Religious Education (SRE) classes.
5. The assessment of SRE classes should address questions such as
 - a. Should the SRE classes include religions other than Christianity, given Australia's current multicultural population?
 - b. Should the SRE classes be replaced by classes on comparative religions or historical aspects of religion?
 - c. Should all classes on specific religions be dropped from schools, and left to specific religious institutions to provide?

Yours faithfully

GNT Lack