

Submission  
No 82

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 20/01/2012

---

Partially Confidential

Dear Committee,

I am writing to show my strong support for Ethics classes in NSW public schools. As the Ethics Coordinator for Summer Hill Public School, which has almost 800 students, I see first hand each week, the following:

1. The 88 children (4 full Ethics classes) in our classes are receiving meaningful instruction and facilitation in a class that their parents have opted them into.
2. They have all come from a Non-Scripture background.
3. Scripture numbers have not been affected whatsoever.
4. In 2011 there was a waiting list of about 20, made up of children from non-scripture and scripture backgrounds.
5. The demand for 2012 will be even greater.
6. The children involved have verbally given us excellent feedback, saying how much they enjoy the lessons and are learning to think logically, respect other points of view, and to back up their opinions with reasons, examples, life experience, etc. Parents have also commented on the value of the classes, and how the topics of conversation often continue at home around the dinner table.

It would be a travesty if these classes were removed just because a religious minority thinks what they are doing during that time-slot is somehow better. Australian children attending secular public schools need to maintain this secular choice during this period!

Feel free to contact me should any of you wish to observe an Ethics class at SHPS, starting in week 3 of Term 1, 2012.

Yours Sincerely,