

Submission
No 37

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

Name: Mr Eric Torreborre

Date received: 10/12/2011

Partially Confidential

To: The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

I've been informed that the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010 might be repealed. Being an atheist I firmly don't want my children, who are both enrolled at the (Y1 and Y5), to attend SRE classes. If Ethics classes were closed my children would be forced to spend this time not doing anything meaningful, which would be a clear discrimination against them.

For now, only my 10 years old daughter has participated in those classes and she's been appreciating a lot those classes, where she was given lots of opportunities to debate and ask questions about very engaging subjects. I had the pleasure to meet her teacher and found him an extremely friendly person, with a deep background in philosophy and lots of respect for his students.

I don't know what would be the criteria used to investigate the Ethics classes but if they were to be conducted, I'd like the same investigation to be performed on the SRE classes. Even being an atheist, I don't see why both classes wouldn't show the same level of humanity and care for others. Tolerance is a two-ways relationship. A large part of my family was exterminated seventy years ago, based on their religious origin. I settled in Australia, coming from France, ready to give all my energy and enthusiasm to build and grow this fabulous country, along with other people coming from so various countries and traditions. I wouldn't want to see this country plagued by another form of intolerance which would be anti-atheism.

Kind Regards,

Eric Torreborre.