

Submission
No 196

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

Name: Mr Mark Blackwell

Date received: 21/02/2012

Partially Confidential

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No2
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

21 Feb 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to offer my voice in support of Ethics Classes being maintained in NSW schools. I deplore the possible regression to having children who opt out of religious instruction classes being idle and potentially discriminated against for non attendance of SRE classes for whatever reason both here in Sydney and all across New South Wales.

It is my own personal experience (1994-2006) that religious education classes in my children's school in [redacted] Primary school were taught by people with dubious qualifications for the task and those opting out, like my daughters, were sent to the library to 'read', often un-attended. I also have poor memories of the experience where children as young as 6 years old are told to split into groups along lines of religion. I find this abhorrent, unnecessary and detrimental to the young mind.

Finally I believe this issue should not be used as a political football in trading favors with the likes of Fred Nile.

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Blackwell