

**Submission
No 335**

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

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I support the notion that human values are universal, and in the case of children who are developing their understanding of these, reinforcement of these outside the home is a positive.

I do not however accept the proposition that such values are uniquely 'Christian' for example, nor do I believe that the exposure of children to values or ethics education needs to be done in a religious context. Further, doing so can create the false belief in children that 'religious' people are 'good' and non religious are less good. This is of course utter nonsense, but as a 'religious' child, this was certainly my belief until I had the experiences to challenge it.

If we had to make a choice for our children's education, which subject matter would best prepare them for life's journey? An understanding of the basis of cooperation, sharing, compassion and empathy, or deceptively being taught about a faith based system as though it was fact?

If we could have only one, surely it would be the former.