

**Submission  
No 120**

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

**Name:** Ms Tracey Trinder

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

I am shocked Ethics Classes are still under investigation and under threat from the extreme Christian right. Since my first child started attending school ten years ago we have been calling for a change that will allow her to do something meaningful and worthwhile during scripture time.

Now her youngest brother is in kindergarten and her oldest brother is the school captain, she is in year 10, and we are still worried about this issue. My son in year 6 started Ethics classes last year and we were impressed and encouraged by both the level of teaching and the curriculum.

In a fast pace, busy world I think it is important that children have time to consider questions of morality, empathy and society in a friendly, non confrontational environment. Because families are so busy these days with work and activities I think there are times when children have questions or dilemmas that go past without acknowledgment, and a great opportunity for growth as a person passes. Schools should help facilitate an open, safe environment for children to explore these issues.

If we move back to a situation in which children opting out of SRE are given nothing meaningful to do it would return us to the discrimination and narrow minded set up of the past which would be entirely unacceptable to thousands of parents, children and other members of the NSW community.

Regards

Tracey Trinder