

**Submission
No 31**

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

Name: Ms Lisa Hickson

Date received: 2/12/2011

Dear Sir / Madam

I understand there is a move to establish a committee to investigate ethics classes. This makes me very concerned about the future of these important classes

Also, the investigation applies only to ethics classes. SRE classes need the same treatment. Of course any class - including ethics classes needs to be scrutinized however why not treat SRE the same way.

I have some concerns about the way SRE is taught. We are not a religious family and my nephew came out of SRE classes freaked out about / talking about hell and it worried us all - we cant imagine what he was being taught

My child / son has opted out of SRE and he sits with some friends mucking up in the library - I want him to learn about all cultures and religions and about good ethical values. It seems we are moving backwards. Indeed, if the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010 were repealed, there would no longer be a legal requirement to offer ethics classes as an option for children not attending SRE classes. This move could return us to a situation in which children opting out of SRE are given nothing meaningful to do. Your submission should point out that **such a situation would discriminate against those children and would be entirely unacceptable to thousands of parents

Yours

Lisa Hickson