

**Submission
No 3**

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

Name: Mr Ross Constable

Date received: 1/12/2011

To: The Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010 (Inquiry)
Chairperson - General Purpose Standing Committee No.2

Submission from: Ross Constable, Dalmeny NSW

I wish to submit the following regarding the above inquiry:

1. Why does the proposed inquiry apply only to ethics classes, which were investigated last year when they were first trialed?
2. Why are special Religious Education (SRE) classes exempt from this inquiry despite the fact they have never been formally investigated since their introduction?
3. As a balanced approach I would ask that the same committee investigates both Ethics and SRE.
4. If the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010 were repealed, there would no longer be a legal requirement to offer ethics classes as an option for children not attending SRE classes.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 is clearly not acceptable in a supposedly secular public education system.
5. The loss of ethics education in our public schools potentially creates a situation for children opting out of SRE are given nothing meaningful to do, which discriminates against them.
6. The loss of ethics as an education alternative to a superstitious, belief based doctrine (religion), potentially forces some children to attend something neither they nor their parents want them to be involved in.

I fully support ethics education and totally oppose SRE in any Australian public school. These important institutions must remain free from the influence of religion and politics and concentrate on the arts, numeracy, literacy and the science derived knowledge and facts.

Superstition should have no place in our schools to the extent ethics and reason have no place in religious institutions.

Sincerely

Ross Constable
1st December 2011