

**Submission
No 75**

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

Name: Mr Peter & Mrs Helen Kidd

Date received: 16/01/2012

11 Jan., 2012.

Dear Mrs Ficarra,

I understand that you are chairing an enquiry into Ethics courses in N.S.W. Schools. We strongly object to these being held in competition with Special Religious Education classes and make the following points:

1. The course does not teach the difference between right and wrong.
2. The course implies teaching secular humanism, relativism and that there are no absolutes. It claims that the validity of lying and stealing depends on the circumstances.
3. The course does not mention God, Jesus Christ or the Bible.
4. The course makes no emphasis on the veracity of the Ten Commandments.
5. We do not demand that students be compelled to attend S.R.E. classes. As a retired High School Principal, I was always able to make suitable arrangements for students who were withdrawn from Scripture. In these days when children spend so much time in front of television and playing computer games, those who are withdrawn have a unique opportunity to discover the joys of reading books and completing some of their homework whilst still at school.
6. The Ethics course is clearly an attempt to remove the opportunity for children to be offered the Christian basis for living which many parents really appreciate.
7. S.R.E. has been offered as a subject in N.S.W. schools since the late eighteen hundreds. Just as no alternative study should be offered as an alternative to Maths periods, so the same should be applied to S.R.E., both being equally recognised by the Board of Education.
8. By all means have Ethics classes in schools but not in competition with Scripture.

We do hope that you and your committee will have a positive response to the points we have made.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,