

**Submission
No 65**

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

Name: Ms Sally Wallace

Date received: 8/12/2011

Submission to General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Re: Ethics classes in schools

As a former teacher I make the following observations which I would like to be considered when you are undertaking your review of the Ethics classes in schools.

- 1) Scripture classes are not attended by all students therefore it is the non-attendees who are losing valuable learning time. By attending ethics classes those students who do not attend scripture are given the opportunity to develop their thinking skills and understand the concept of ethical behaviour.
- 2) Behaviour issues in some schools have become increasingly difficult to address so skilling students in ethics gives the school a valuable tool with which to address behavioural issues.
- 3) Given the diversity of religious beliefs within schools it is not possible for all religions to be offered religious instruction. Ethics instruction covers the gap.
- 4) The Ethics programme has not had sufficient time, as a teaching/learning programme, to "find its feet". The volunteer teachers, like Scripture teachers and classroom teachers, have to have time to develop their skills and their familiarity with the children in their charge.

(As a classroom teacher I am still learning how best to deliver material because each learning cohort is different)

I urge you to consider all these issues when conducting your review.

Yours faithfully

Sally Wallace