

**Submission
No 23**

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

Name: Dr Michael A & Mrs Shona M Charleston

Date received: 2/12/2011

The Director

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

2.12.2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

RE: Formal Enquiry into the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010 and Ethics Classes in State Schools.

We respectfully request that the committee conducting the above enquiry, consider the following points.

It is our opinion and the opinion of many others that there should be a parallel investigation of SRE since this investigation applies only to ethics classes. SRE classes have never been formally investigated since their introduction in the 19th Century.

If the Education Amendment (Ethics) Act 2010 were repealed, this would discriminate against those children not attending SRE classes, our's included, as they would once more, be given nothing meaningful to do. This would be entirely unacceptable to thousands of parents, children and other members of the NSW community.

We strongly believe that our children have the right to be taught during the hours when SRE is conducted. It appalls us that the choice was, and could once more be, SRE or nothing. If those who oppose ethics classes do so on the grounds that their children should have the opportunity to attend both SRE classes and Ethics classes, we suggest that SRE be removed from schools altogether and be returned to the domain of the families and their chosen religious groups. Discrimination of this magnitude should not be allowed, particularly in our state education system.

The fairness and equality in the education of our children and the children of many other families depends upon the recommendations of this committee. Please be mindful of our wishes.

Sincerely,

Dr Michael A. Charleston and Mrs Shona M. Charleston