

Submission  
No 436

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

**Name:** Mrs Angela Hutchins

**Date received:** 24/02/2012

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Partially Confidential

PLEASE DO NOT REPEAL THE EDUCATION ACT (ethics) 2010

Our children deserve the best that we can offer. The following is a letter to my child's school principal sent today.

24<sup>th</sup> February 2012

To the Principal

Re: Scripture

I feel it's necessary for me to provide you with a formal letter of explanation as to why I prefer [redacted] not to attend scripture classes. Firstly I must say that I'm disappointed that it was assumed that she would attend scripture and this occurred without my consent. I feel a permission form signed by a parent allowing children to attend scripture would be appropriate, this would also be a great way of informing parents on what Christian teaching is being provided ie; Baptist or Catholic etc and who is providing it ie; Priest, Nun, other.

There are many differences between the various Christian beliefs and the religious education they provide. Some teach stories and myth as fact and actively dismiss or contradict current scientific knowledge. The debate between creationism and evolution is on going, with some Christian factions wanting to rewrite the history books. All of which I find disturbing... While make believe in the form of the Tooth Fairy etc is fun and acceptable there is a point when [redacted] will find out these things aren't real or true. Educationally [redacted] deserves the facts as they stand today and to not confuse science and religion.

I am not opposed to [redacted] learning about religion/spirituality provided she learns about them all - Hinduism, Buddhism, Shintoism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism and indigenous belief systems. I believe social tolerance comes from understanding and appreciating religious, cultural and physical differences.

I hope that one day [redacted] Public School will adopt an ethics class or suitable alternative to children whose parents have similar concerns. Until such time either myself, Sharon Edgar-Jones or my husband Kevin Hutchins will supervise the children in the library.

Kind regards

Angela Hutchins