

**Submission  
No 29**

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

**Name:** Ms Suzanne Ellis

**Date received:** 2/12/2011

---

To Primary Ethics Inquiry,

I believe the Primary Ethics classes have met with amazing success. My 11 year old son is really loving it after 3 years of scripture and 2 of non-scripture. He is bringing some very interesting discussions to our dinner table.

For example one night he said "Do you think you can take fruit from a tree in a neighbour's front yard?" The discussion that followed was thought provoking for our other 2 children as well as my husband and I. "Stealing" had been the topic at his primary ethics class that day. Other topics covered include graffiti and homelessness.

I want my child to grow up with a social conscience and from what I can see this is the main aim of Primary Ethics. Most religions also have this aim. Any High School Principal would be grateful to know his year 7 students have had this grounding.

I choose to send my children to a government (supposedly) secular school. They are then faced with having to choose between Anglican scripture, catholic or sitting for half an hour doing nothing. As we are neither of the 2 religions offered I think we have shown amazing tolerance so far in allowing scripture to continue in schools. It is completely outdated and discriminates against minority groups.

It is simply a question of civil liberty. Without Primary Ethics there is no choice. Surely our kids deserve a choice. I don't know how to explain to my children that their government does not want this for them.

Suzanne Ellis