

Submission
No 419

INQUIRY INTO EDUCATION AMENDMENT (ETHICS CLASSES REPEAL) BILL 2011

Organisation: Syrian Orthodox Patriarchal Vicarate of Australia and New
Zealand

Date received: 8/03/2012



ܩܘܪܝܢܘܨܐ ܕܩܘܪܝܢܘܨܐ ܕܐܘܨٲܘܪܝܐ ܘܢܘܨܘܢܘܢܐ
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Syrian Orthodox Patriarchal Vicarate
of Australia and New Zealand



No. : 112/2012
Date : 27/02/2012

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2,
C/- Parliament House,
Macquarie Street
Sydney, NSW, 2000

RE: Submissions against "Ethics Course"

Dear Rev. Nile,

I thank you for bringing this matter of great concern to my attention. I fully support the position you and other churches have taken about the proposition to replace Scripture Classes in State Schools with an "Ethics Course". I would like to take this opportunity to state my disapproval of this move and see it as a very dangerous one with many long term ramifications for the coming generations.

I would like to point out that Scripture Classes in State Schools have not been detrimental to the learning and development of children in any way. It must be noted that parents and guardians have the option to not send their children to Scripture Classes if they so choose – this is a sufficient option for parents and guardians. Many of the Christian values that are taught in Scripture Classes are the same of those which are upheld in today's society – and they are not negative ideals. They are positive teachings which help foster positive relationships between people in the community.

I would like to formally state my disapproval of the implementation of the new "Ethics Course" in place of the long standing Scripture Classes.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for further comment or assistance.

Yours sincerely

Mor Malatius Malki
Archbishop of Australia & NZ

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