

## Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

**Submission No:** 31  
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### Submitter Comments:

By the very definition, being of, or having, “good character” is a complete juxtaposition to the abandonment of empathy, respect, consideration, accountability, integrity, compassion, and humanity that one must embrace in order to commit the undeniably intentional act of violating another human and committing an act of rape or sexual assault against another person, let alone a child. Rape and sexual assault is never an accidental act on the part of the perpetrator. It is not like making a split-second misjudgement and not hitting the brakes fast enough and causing a car accident that writes off a vehicle and breaks someone’s leg. Every instance of rape and sexual assault requires a degree of premeditation. It is a deliberate and inexcusable act that should automatically invalidate any third-party recount of the false and misleading persona a perpetrator will meticulously manicure over an extended period of time, with the sole intention of creating a dissonance between the experiences of their victims and the experiences of their bystanders to make them complicit in maintaining an environment of hell for the child or person that has had to endure this horrific experience and level of suffering at their hand. “I’ve never had that experience and this person has been nice to me in this specific context” should never be the reason or justification that a perpetrator who intentionally harms and violates the bodies of children and other adults gets a reduced or lenient punishment for this act of premeditated cruelty.

Why should the victim be forced to suffer and carry these horrific experiences around with them on a day-to-day basis for every single day and night of the rest of their lives while their perpetrators receive little to no punishment because someone once stood up and said they were nice?

You cannot be of a good member of your community whilst simultaneously intentionally harming its most vulnerable members. You cannot be a strong and committed member of your church group whilst simultaneously intentionally bringing harm to your fellow people. You cannot be a pillar of the school community whilst simultaneously intentionally destroying children.

It is never an accident. It should never be treated as such, especially by the governing laws that are meant to protect us from harm, and especially under a government that ran on the election promise of harsher penalties for violent crime and being so intent on pushing “Adult Crime, Adult Time”. Rape and sexual assault are some of the most brutal acts of violence in existence. Punish accordingly.