

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

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Good character references are the reason so many perpetrators get away with sexually abusive behaviour. Such references lead abuse to be normalised in our society, and seen as acceptable as long as the perpetrator doesn't match someone's perception of an abuser.

"They didn't treat *me* that way." does NOT equal innocence.

"They're a family person." does NOT equal innocence.

"They don't seem like the type." does NOT...EQUAL...INNOCENCE.

Please, I beg, give victims a chance in a world where it's already SO hard for them. Where they have to fight - to RELIVE THEIR TRAUMA - for immense periods of time just to be taken seriously.