


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

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Submitted by: 
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Submitter Comments:

I completely and utterly support the proposal from the #YourReferenceAintRelevant campaign calling for total abolition of good character references in the sentencing of convicted rapists, child sex offenders and perpetrators of domestic violence. Research indicates the people that perpetrate these crimes are often narcissists and manipulative, having a good character reference only attests to their ability to convince people they aren't capable of crimes - which is a predominant aspect of their ability to commit them in the first place. The belief people are inherently good is abused and manipulated once they have a chance to offend, which increases the amount of space they have to commit these offenders as people don't believe victims. This is horrific. How are you meant to tell a child their abuse doesn't matter because their perpetrator was a good soccer coach, or a good friend. For pedophiles.. of course they are they aren't going to rape an adult and for children this is how they gain their trust that provides an opportunity to offend. This needs to be abolished!