

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

**Submission No:** 65  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

I fully endorse the proposal from the #YourReferenceAintRelevant campaign calling for a total abolition of good character references in the sentencing of convicted rapists, child sex offenders, and perpetrators of domestic violence.

As a survivor of domestic violence I have experienced the trauma of having my abuser be excused for his harmful actions towards me and my children because he had a good reputation at work, with friends and family. I wasn't believed when I spoke about the abuse he inflicted on me behind closed doors, and the trauma of my experience of institutional betrayal caused great suffering to me and negatively impacted on my children to this day. Justice should be based on the facts of the case, not on who the offender knows.