

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

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Convicted sexual offenders should not be permitted to use good character references in court. It's a widely accepted fact that abusers compartmentalise and are known to behave one way around friends and family, and another around their victim/s (or potential victims). Their "good character" outside of their criminal act/s does not make them any less guilty of what they have done. Allowing good character references implies that their criminal actions are an outlier - removed from who they normally are as a person - they are not. They are a deliberate choice and choices have consequences.