

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

Submission No: 71
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Submitter Comments:

"I wholeheartedly support 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.

Allowing these references enables abusers to weaponise their social status to minimise harm. Justice should be based on the facts of the case — not on who the offender knows."

I have personally experienced a man who groomed me, and beat me for several years. He got a really low sentence due to character witnesses, he wasn't a good person. He groomed me from the age of 11, got me when I was 15, then progressively beat me more and more for three plus years. He didn't deserve any less time, and nor did my pedophile uncle who could have gotten up to 10 years per count of four charges, and ended up with 22 months. It's ridiculous. It takes so much commitment and hard work to come forward for ourselves and others, for what? Victims deserve more, and so do the people we're trying to protect by standing up. Both of these people have been found guilty and convicted, so no confidentiality is breached.