

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

**Submission No:** 75  
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### Submitter Comments:

Character witness statements for perpetrators found guilty of sexual assault need to be abolished. Anything less is not acceptable. Empathy should not be disproportionately directed to the offenders and away from the victims. A rapist is not of good character no matter what family or friends may believe. A rapist can not be a good person just because they have the right social status , reputation or enough people to vouch for them. It sends a message that your community contributions can somehow offset the trauma you have committed. Justice can't be measured by how well connected a perpetrator is. Justice must be survivor centred not reputation driven.