

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

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Submitted by: 

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Submitter Comments:

I'm a child sex abuse victim and survivor who is now an adult living with complex PTSD. I am writing to share my support that child sex offenders should not be allowed to have good character references in court. My perpetrator was my own father who positioned himself in the community as an upstanding citizen despite committing crimes against me as a child. He ensured I kept "family secrets" and told me I would not have a home if I was gay. I faced relentless abuse, beyond sexual from this perpetrator who would have had numerous people providing good character references to support him. This is why I chose not to report his crimes. The criminal justice system needs to prevent clever criminals from benefiting from embedding themselves in their communities with a false image of their character as a safeguard against litigation. Victims deserve a chance at real justice and this cannot be achieved with good character references being allowed to bolster their image. Perpetrators of violence often carefully curate their image but these are rarely a reflection of who they really are. Anyone who violates a defenseless child's innocence and safety is a monster and the law should act accordingly.