

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

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Submitter Comments:

I wholly support the principles of the Your Reference Ain't Relevant campaign. There are no circumstances under which character references are relevant to the trial of child sex offenders, rapists, or perpetrators of domestic violence. The verdicts in such cases should be based on facts alone. As a victim of child sexual abuse, it is offensive to me, and the 7 year old girl I was at the time, that any character reference be an allowable consideration when determining the outcomes of the above mentioned types of court cases. No character reference will change the crime committed or the impact the crime had on the victim. Therefore, I fail to see its relevance in trial outcomes.