

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

**Submission No:** 122  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
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**Attachments:** No attachment

**Submitter Comments:**  
The men that abused me when I was underage were both well respected in my community. Very charismatic, charming, well presented, engaging.They both had a duty of care over me, and because of their social standing, other adults didnâ€™t believe me or chose to look the other way when I raised issues. They were able to use their assumed good character and social standing to continue abusing me.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 â€” not on who the offender knows.