


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

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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. Speaking from experience, the use of good character references is so detrimental to the victims, minimising the damage done. The perpetrators so called good character is part of what enables them to groom their victims and commit these crimes, therefore, if anything their "good character" should actually be used against them.

There is no room in these cases for good character references. Justice should be based on the facts of the case - not on who the offender knows.