

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. Justice should be based on the facts of the case - not on who the offender knows. I have lived experience of both child SA and domestic violence, both of my abusers would use their charm and social engineering to hide their crimes from others. References for both of them would say "they're good blokes, they wouldn't harm anybody", but behind closed doors was another side of these perpetrators.