

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

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Allowing character references in sentencing matters of sexual assault, domestic family and sexual violence (DFSV), and child sex offenders prevents the justice system from protecting victims and allows alleged abusers to weaponise their social standing to mitigate fall out. The proper functioning of the justice system should be based on the presentation of facts and evidence - not on who the offender knows. In a society where the effects and nuances of DFSV and sexual assault are well studied, it is appalling that the Queensland Government would even consider providing offenders with another "out" - when in 2022 in QLD, less than 20% of alleged breaches to Domestic Violence Orders were charged. The Queensland Government have the opportunity to showcase that they, as they claim, care about the safety and protection of victims. Good character references to not have a place in matters pertaining to sexual assault, DFSV and child sex offences.