

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

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Submitted by: 

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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. A conviction nullifies any good character in logic and should never be considered. The abhorrent use of this tactic only benefits perpetrators and victims are left feeling isolated and traumatised at the hands of someone who believes they can commit crimes against them. The inequality is jarring. This inequality goes against an individuals human rights and plays into societal power imbalances. People's trauma should not be discredited and their injustice should never be less than a perpetrators. To reward a perpetrator should be inconceivable in the name of justice. There will be no stopping the monster of crimes if there is no deterrent and this just cannot be our future. Society has a responsibility to protect the vulnerable, protect our children, all children have the right to live trauma free. Good character only allows the opposite and this must not happen for the benefit of all humans.