

From: [Elizabeth Mansfield](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Support of Your Reference Ain't Relevant
Date: Thursday, 13 February 2025 1:08:48 PM

Dear NSW Sentencing Council,

This is an email in support of the Your Reference Ain't Relevant campaign. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the continued use of good character references as a mitigating factor in criminal sentencing.

Criminal justice should prioritise accountability, fairness, and the protection of the community. The use of good character references diminishes the focus on the harm caused by the crime and the need for appropriate punishment.

It is imperative that sentencing decisions be based on objective criteria, such as the nature and severity of the crime and the impact on victims, rather than personal testimonies that may not fully capture the broader implications of the crime.

I urge the government to remove the use of good character references as a mitigating factor in sentencing, ensuring that the focus remains on justice, fairness, and the well-being of the community.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Mansfield