

**From:** [adam ferris](#)  
**To:** [sentencingcouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Good character in sentencing submission  
**Date:** Wednesday, 5 February 2025 8:51:43 PM

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**Dear Mr. McClellan and the NSW Sentencing Council,**

I am writing to express my support for amending Section 21A(5A) of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 (NSW)* to prevent the use of "good character" references in sentencing for child sexual abuse cases.

As a father of two teenage girls and a concerned community member, I believe our sentencing framework must reflect the gravity of these crimes and ensure full accountability. Allowing good character references in such cases undermines the severity of the offence and the harm suffered by victims.

I strongly support the *Your Reference Ain't Relevant* campaign's call to remove the final 21 words of this provision. Victim protection and justice must take precedence over an offender's past reputation.

Thank you for considering my submission.

**Sincerely,**  
Adam Ferris