

From: [Erika Gore](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Friday, 7 February 2025 9:35:28 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Mr McClellan and the NSW Sentencing council,

I am writing to provide my input on the review of section 21A (5A) of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) ACT 1999 (NSW) and other relevant sections concerning the use of 'good character' in sentencing, particularly for child sexual abuse cases.

As a member of the Australian community I believe that the use of Good Character References in Child Sexual Abuse cases undermines the impact of the abuse both to the victim and our society as a whole. I believe that these good character references can impede justice for the victims, facilitating reduced sentences for perpetrators and impacts the wellbeing of victims in a negative manner.

Perpetrators of Sexual Abuse are known to groom both their victims and others around them, this in turn makes it less likely for victims to come forward as they feel that no one will believe them. Allowing good character references in these cases will continue to keep victims silent and allow perpetrators to continue the abuse.

I encourage you to remove the ability for people who commit these crimes to use good character references by removing the last 21 words of the current provision.

Sincerely,

Erika Seidel

Confidential communication

Westpac Banking Corporation (ABN 33 007 457 141, AFSL 233714)

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