

From: [Karyn Roe](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Good character in sentencing
Date: Tuesday, 11 February 2025 9:33:49 PM

Good evening,

I've been brought to this email on a Tuesday night by Grace Tame, who I'm sure I don't have to explain. I should be picking up after my small children, tidying the lounge room, putting away dinner and the dishes, and generally preparing for another day in my busy life. One thought that often occupies my mind is how to prepare my children for any potential encounters with child sexual abusers. I would give anything to protect them from ever being in the same country as one, let alone the same city, or school, or friends house. But I know this is not the case. At some stage in my children's lives they will cross path's with such a predator, perhaps even multiple times. All I can hope for is that they never realise it. Can you imagine how powerless this makes me feel? I am raising my children to be confident, successful, to reach their full potential and live the life they would choose for themselves. But I am sending them out into a world full of child sexual abusers. If I think about that too much I feel I would go mad.

So what can I do? I know I can send this email in response to the review looking into good character references when sentencing those found guilty of crimes. I can understand where a good character reference would be in the convicted persons best interest concerning certain offenses. However, I genuinely am stumped as to why any court would allow a good character reference to be considered for a child sexual abuser. No number of good deeds would ever excuse the grooming, abuse, and rape of a child. I am appalled that such people could receive reduced sentences for such heinous crimes because some long-standing neighbour or boss thinks they're a "good" person and are happy to provide a reference. It is the legal system who is responsible for any further crimes against children perpetrated by individuals benefiting from a good character reference. I wholeheartedly oppose good character references being allowed for any perpetrators of sexual violence and crimes, and particularly those who target vulnerable children.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I sincerely hope you have.

Kind regards,

Karyn Roe

Sent from my iPhone