

From: [Marianne Loew](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: ReferenceAintRelevant Campaign
Date: Sunday, 19 May 2024 7:38:20 PM
Attachments: [VIS.MarianneLoew.2024.2 copy.pdf](#)

Good Evening,

I am emailing regarding the deep concern I have personally as a member of society and general concern of other people in our society, regarding the good character reference in following section 21A(5A) of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999*(NSW). deep The "good character" in regards to sentencing may very much apply fairly and many other areas of crime. The area of concern which this is still applicable to, is that of child sexual abuse/assaults/offences. There is multiple stages and methods within grooming, which include manipulation, isolation and many other things which depicts the offending and or accused in a better light in society so that they can use this as a shield and weapon in heinous crimes against the most innocent in our society, children. In order to gain trust and access to children many people have attempted to gain a social status in society as a good person. This deception and lie of the good character of the offending or accused is used as tool to gain trust and access to children leading to isolation and furthermore abuse. In other crimes for example a stabbing with ie weapon of a knife, during sentencing does the reference of the knife, help the offending/accused weigh up the sentence received. The answer is no, because how can it be referenced to the offending/accused as it's a weapon. This also goes the same for the good character, but somehow this is still being used to weigh up a sentence. This is largely damaging to the justice system, victims etc as the justice system is required to be fair and just and to find the truth. The good reference is a tool for pedophiles and child sexual offenders to having access to children and then reusing this as a form of consideration in sentencing is a form of manipulating justice.

I have attached my own experience and Victim Impact Statement to this email. I hope you find the time to read it and see the long term damage that comes along with child sexual abuse to a victim. I hope when going over the emails regarding this. Taken in account is, Justice, fairness, the victims and the tools which pedophiles and child sexual offenders use to manipulate the justice system and innocent people in society.