

From: [Michelle Lin](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Good character in sentencing submission
Date: Sunday, 7 July 2024 7:39:08 PM

Hello,

I'm writing to your review of section 21A(5A) of the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 (NSW), and other relevant sections, and the common law relating to the use of "good character" in sentencing.

I'm a social worker and counsellor with 7 years of post-graduate experience with extensive experience in interpersonal violence and trauma in domestic violence, child protection, CALD, and LGBTIQA+ niches.

So called "good character" is a feature of predators who groom the public and those close to the victim-survivor to continue to weaponize their "good character" to access and abuse victim groups such as children, faith congregations, employees, students, etc. This "good character" is intentionally constructed and portrayed to give them the benefit of the doubt and/or put them in positions of trust.

It should never be a mitigating factor.

With warmth and solidarity,

Michelle Lin (she/they)
Social Worker/Counsellor/Clinical Supervisor

CONTACT

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters on which I live, learn, and work - the Bidjigal people of the Eora nation. I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are present. This is, was, and always will be Aboriginal land.