

From: [Jane LoureyScott](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Good Character References for child sex abusers
Date: Monday, 8 July 2024 3:08:03 PM

Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding "Good Character" references for child sex abusers.

In society, children are regarded as most in need of care and protection, yet child sexual abusers take this away and cause irreparable harm for the child victim, their family, and the wider community.

The "good character" of such an abuser is a facade that is not relevant to their crimes- perhaps it makes their crime all that more heinous- in the fact that a person thought of as "good" or "trustworthy" has the indecency to forever taint such an innocent person as a child. I know first hand the life sentence a child undergoes when they have been groomed or abused.

How can our courts uphold justice by allowing a "good character" reference as a mitigating factor to child sexual abusers, when that harm can not be undone from the child? When the trustworthiness of that abuser has put them in a position of unbalanced power to abuse the child.

As a member of Australian society, and a believer in the Court system, I strongly hold the view that allowing such character references in these crimes does NOT meet the moral standings of society, and do not achieve justice for the victim or society.

I strongly urge you to reconsider allowing these character references to be taken into consideration as a mitigating factor as they can cause further harm to the victim and society.

Hearing what a "good" person their abuser is can re-traumatise and diminish what they have gone through as a survivor.

. In crimes such as this, surely the focus should be on supporting the victim and the community, and NOT making concessions or allowances because some bloke is a "good guy" whilst in jail or after committing the crime.

Regards,

Jane Scott