

From:
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Submission: Good Character in Sentencing Procedures
Date: Monday, 8 July 2024 7:08:29 PM

Dear Mr McClellan and the NSW Sentencing Council,

I am writing to provide my input on the review of section 212A(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 concerned member of the community, and someone who has watched a perpetrator knowingly use this tactic to their advantage in numerous occasions, I believe it is crucial to ensure that our sentencing framework reflects the seriousness of child sexual offences and holds perpetrators fully accountable for their actions. The use of good character references in these cases undermines the gravity of the crime and the harm caused to victims.

These victims are our most vulnerable, and likely will have suffered years of abuse from someone that was known to them, that used tactics of grooming, control and manipulation throughout the abuse that they endured. I firmly believe that good character references are an extension of this practice and we must at all costs protect the well-being of victims and ensure that their offenders are held fully accountable for their actions.

I wholeheartedly support the “Your Reference Ain’t Relevant” Campaign’s call to remove the last 21 words of the current provision.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,