

From: [Anne Malone](#)
To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Sentencing Guidelines
Date: Tuesday, 9 July 2024 7:15:30 PM

Dear Mr McClellan and the NSW Sentencing council,

I am writing to provide my input into review of section 21A(5A) to the crimes (sentencing procedure) Act 1999 (NSW) and other relevant sections concerning the use of "good character" in sentencing, particularly for child sex abuse cases.

As a concerned member of the community, I believe it's crucial to ensure that our sentencing framework reflects the seriousness of child sexual offences and hold perpetrators fully accountable for their actions. The use of good character references in these cases undermines the gravity of the seriousness of the crimes as well as the often life long harm caused to victims.

I believe that good character references should not be considered in these cases as they diminish the severity of the offences and hinder justice for victims. It's essential to prioritise the protection and wellbeing of victims and ensure that offenders are held fully accountable for their actions.

Thank you for considering my submission sincerely