

Here is my opinion on the Communication Legislation Amendment for mis/disinformation online.

Firstly, I inherently do NOT believe it is the government's role to police information posted online unless it contravenes Common law and Civil law. What I mean by this is what is related to blatantly criminal activity. To quote the most egregious example that comes to mind; child pornography.


I do not believe any government Minister, department, section, committee, or workgroup, should be the arbitrator of what is deemed misinformation or disinformation. I wish to explain why, and I will also enclose a personal experience or testimony.

In my experience, what is deemed mis/disinformation is often subjective. Authoritative established "fact checkers" claim objectivity. They claim reference to established bodies, whether scientific based or organization based. Therein lies the issue of what is truly objective.

The scientific model, by definition, embraces to be questioned, to be scrutinized, to be criticized, to be debated. I have heard far too many times in the past 3 years that we MUST trust the science, we cannot question the science, we are not qualified, we don't know what we are talking about. The laity has every right to question the science.

My general example is The Covid Pandemic and I will share a small personal testimony. I live in Western Australia and work for the State Government in an IT role at a small department that comes under the umbrella of the states education department. Then Premier, Mark McGowan, under advice from the Chief Health Office, Andy Robertson, put in place Covid vaccine mandates that were classified into 3 main groups:

<https://www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au/file/629>




# COVID-19

We're all in this *together.*

## Mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations

To protect WA and safeguard essential services and businesses for the long-term



### Occupations in which risk is sufficient due to high transmission, vulnerability or necessary to avoid catastrophic risk to safety of the community


**Mandates with various implementation dates**

- Hotel quarantine
- Ports (exposed workers only)
- Residential aged care
- Mission critical areas in WA Police
- Public and private hospitals and public healthcare facilities
- Cross-border freight (road and rail) workers - high and extreme risk locations only
- Primary and community health
- Onsite resources sector

The relevant vaccination requirements are largely covered by current public health directions/employers directions and these continue to apply.

**First dose by 1 December 2021 and fully vaccinated by 31 December 2021**

- Border and air transport
- Remaining residential and non-residential community care services not captured by previous mandates including in relation to:
  - Disability
  - In home and community aged care workers
  - Drug and alcohol services
  - Child protection
  - Homelessness
  - Family and domestic violence
  - Aboriginal peoples
- Corrective services
- Remaining WA Police
- Fire and Emergency Services (excluding volunteers)
- Abattoirs and meat processing




### Occupations deemed critical to the ongoing delivery of business and function of the community

**First dose by 31 December 2021 and fully vaccinated by 31 January 2022**

- Supermarkets, grocery, bakery
- Restaurant, pub, bar or café
- Post office
- Department store
- Hardware store
- Child care or family day care
- School or boarding school\*
- TAFE's and colleges of vocational education
- Financial institution
- Critical infrastructure and services necessary for health, safety and welfare of the community, any person, animal or premises e.g. utilities and veterinary clinic
- Petrol station, truck stops and roadhouses
- Public and commercial transport
- Remaining port operations
- Remaining commercial transport, freight or logistics
- Hotel, motel or other accommodation facility to provide accommodation services
- Funeral or mortuary services
- Building, maintenance or construction
- Staff working in or entering remote Aboriginal communities

\* (before Term 1 of the 2022 school year)



### In the event of a lockdown:

**The following will be required to be fully vaccinated to attend work in the event of a lockdown or similar restrictions**

- Other click and collect retail
- Bottle shop
- Newsagent
- Pet store
- Wholesaler
- Critical conveyancing and settlement agents
- Government or local government services where working from home is not possible
- Some administrative services
- Vehicle and mechanical repair service
- Journalistic and media services
- Members and staff of Members of Parliament of Western Australia
- Roadside assistance
- Critical forestry
- Critical primary industries
- Critical factories, manufacturing, fabrication and production

To get vaccinated go to [www.rollupforwa.com.au](http://www.rollupforwa.com.au) If an occupation fits in more than one category, the vaccination requirement with the earliest deadline should apply.

I interpreted this to classify myself into the bottom or 3<sup>rd</sup> group'

An Email was then received from the [REDACTED] of the Dept of [REDACTED] on the 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

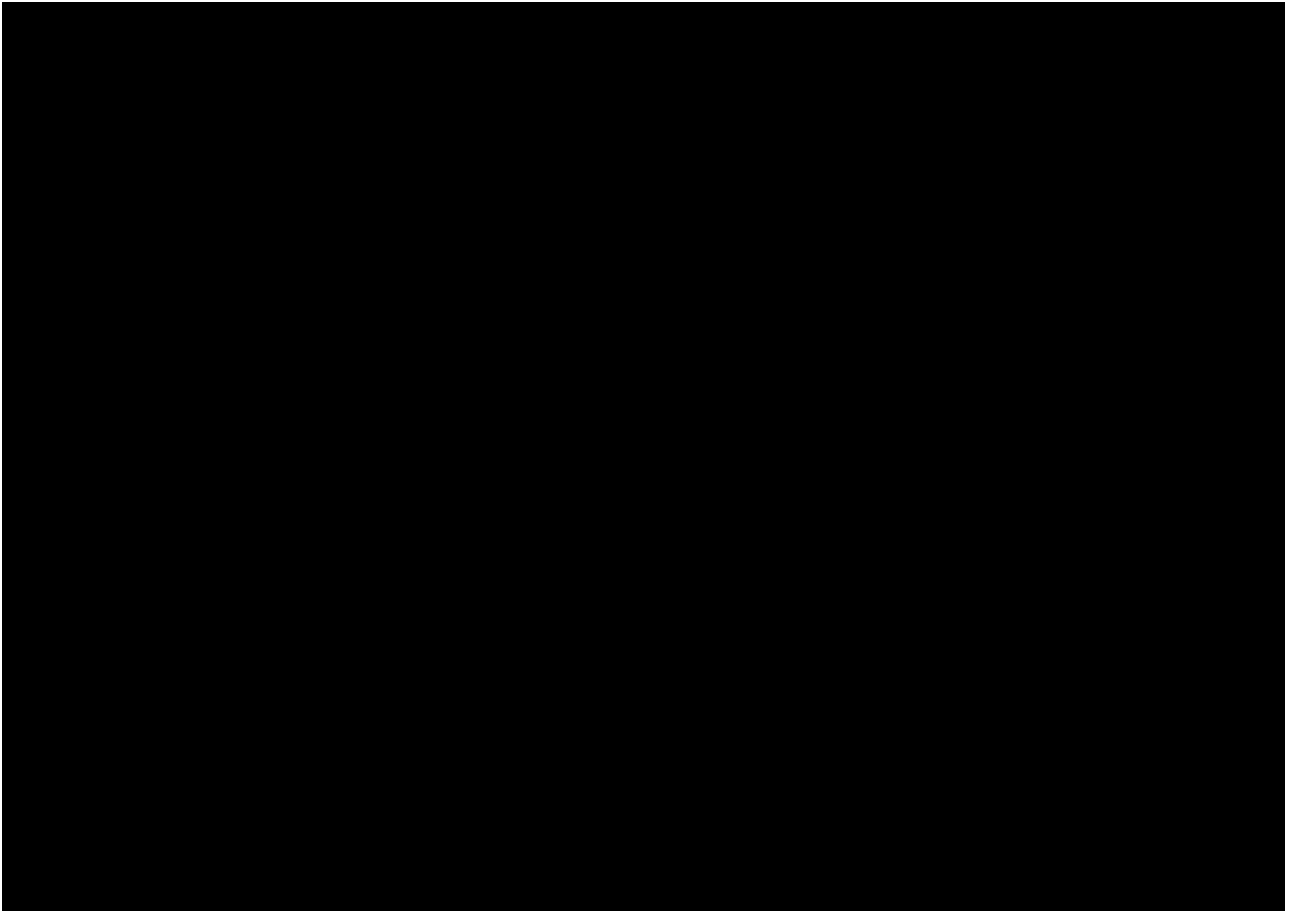
[Redacted]

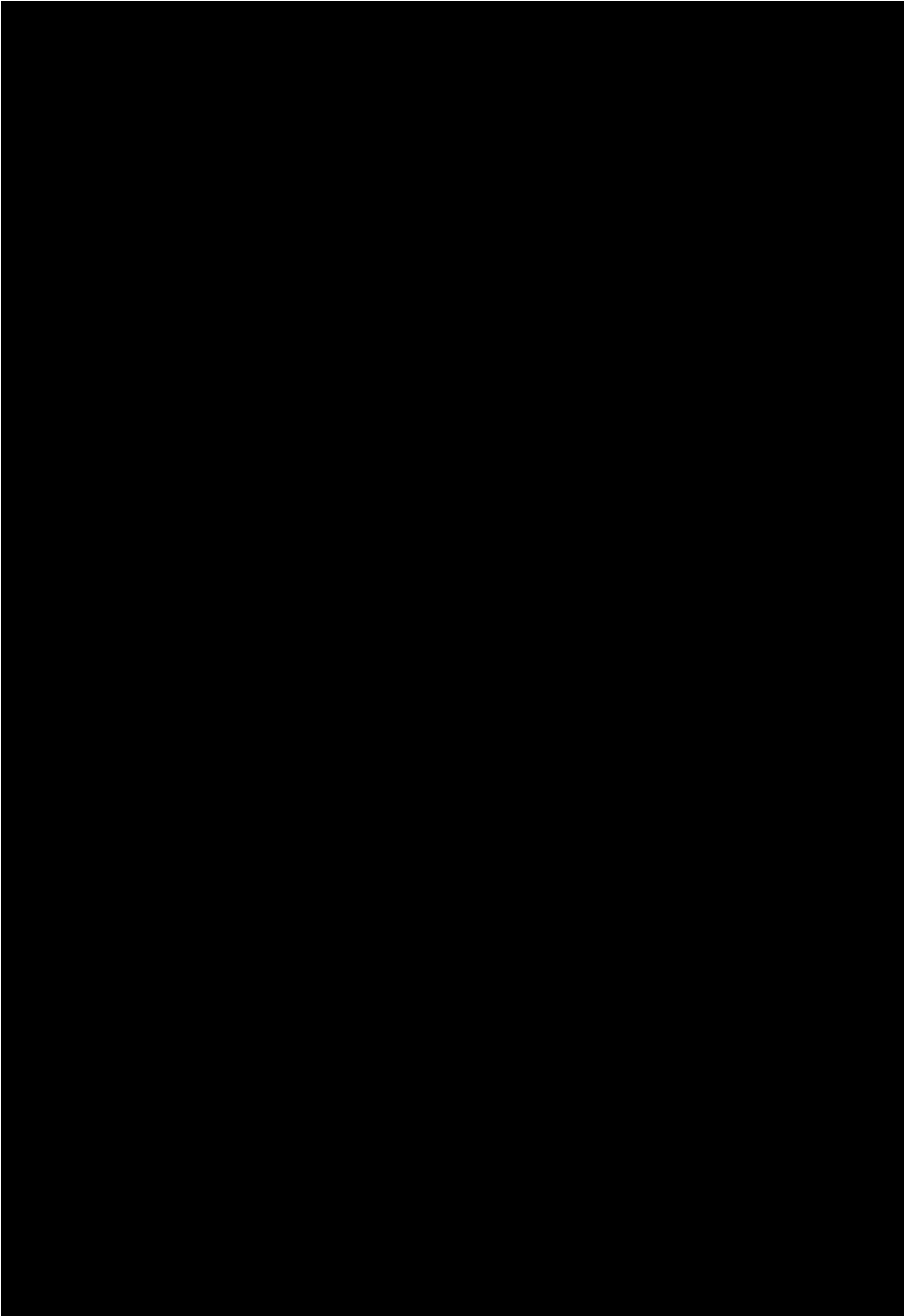
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

I declined based on the following reasons:

[Redacted]



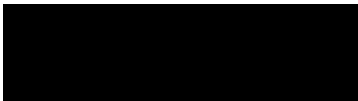


I never experienced anymore pressure for vaccination after my “WITHOUT PREJUDICE” reply as cited above. I stood up to the pressure to be vaccinated based on poor interpretation of a public health order. “They” were acting on information they misinterpreted and then repeatedly pressure me based on their own misinformation.

Why am I sharing this? Simple, the state Dept I worked in could not interpret the health order in my sector and insisted to pressure myself for my vaccine record and to be vaccinated. Misinformation occurs in government. If government can't get the scope of to whom a simple mandate applies to, then I cannot trust government to be the truth on what is deemed misinformation. Questioning everything is essential and my right to do so needs to be enshrined. That is what free speech is. The government is not qualified to determine what is misinformation or disinformation. I realise we do not have a Bill of Rights in this country but such a Bill's express purpose is to restrict government; not to empower governments. This Communication Legislation Amendment for mis/disinformation online is designed to empower government and it is government that should not be allowed to determine what is “truth” online. For want of an overused term, no government should even think of enacting a “Ministry of Truth”.

I strongly oppose the amendment and hope the example I shared expresses the point. If a relatively simple issue like the example I shared, shows the inadequacy, I can only fear for the greater good, the need for true freedom of speech. We have a fundamental right to question authority, science, so called fact checkers. Social media such as Twitter are meant to be public spaces, town squares. People can mute, people can block, people chose who they follow. The government should have NO role in this. It's that simple.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.