

OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED

“Misinformation” Law

This law and the pursuit of the draft Bill to establish the “Misinformation Law” must be abandoned in the name of democracy and the Australian way. There is absolutely no position that can be argued that shows the proposed law to be anything more than a "Blunt Instrument" for any prevailing Government to SENSOR, SUPPRESS and SUBDUCE any conflicting positions, findings, research, science, dissenting argument or point of view that contradicts questions or challenges a position, policy or mandate held by the incumbent power. The proposed Law and associated Bill could, and probabilistically, will be used by Governments, Executives and the Judiciary against citizens and organizations with differing political views to an incumbent Government or a prevailing "vibe". There is also the strong possibility that this Status Quo of the Law if passed, will extend to the Corporate and Industrial Sectors which will further suppress, constrain and stifle free thought, expression and speech in Australia. This situation is not democracy; it is defined as communism and totalitarianism. If this Bill is passed, the only place that all sides of an argument, topic, policy, concept or idea could be heard will be under Parliamentary Privilege's. This is obviously not lost on the proponents of the Bill to pass this “Disinformation Law”.

Additionally, there is no government or related body that could ever be relied upon or comprehensively trusted to fully determine the accuracy, validity or scientific basis of any position that is misaligned to the policy or mandates of an incumbent holder of a position or power. As such, Misinformation will be determined in the eye of the holder of power, comprehensively subjective and at the mercy of the inherent bias and foundation of the Misinformation Arbiter. The evaluation of the "Quality of Information" is fundamentally subjective and the very high potential for the checkers of information to be misinformed, biased or directly manipulated is unacceptably high, especially in complex matters. Any Law, such as proposed, is the very foundation of communism and totalitarianism and is a proven demonstrable cornerstone of communist policy. China, Russia and North Korea use this technique to control its citizens, deprive them of access to information and even rank citizens in a social point system by how deeply they embrace the doctrine of the incumbent power.

The idea and ultimate position of what “Information” is, and what “Misinformation” is, will by logical conclusion fall to some designated body or Government Department. How can such an entity be impartial and unbiased without a basis of legal proof of fact that would stand up in a law court? What are the extents of the applicability and powers of this proposed Law? What are the Citizens recourse based on fair process and access to free representation? How will this body be funded? How will allowable ‘Information’ be communicated to the public? Unfortunately for the proponents of this Bill, there are mounting examples globally of the information recently termed, “Misinformation”, “Conspiracy Theory” etc now being exposed as being based in a lot more facts than we were coached and encouraged to believe. Will citizens found guilty of “Misinformation” have the same tax payer assisted legal recourse to restore their character and achieve compensation when “Misinformation” is found to be verified as “Information Based in Fact” in future times, highly doubtful the Australian Citizen will be protected in such a scenario. Misinformation in the context of the proposed law is a modern construct. In a true democracy, there is no inherent threat related to freedom of information, free speech and the ability of the citizen to sort information into the correct

category of quality. There is however, a definite scenario clearly visible with the proposed Law that will deprive the Citizen of the suite of all information. This will clearly limit the citizens ability to make balanced decision based on all points of view and data in the Australian and global open forum. It is demonstrable, that currently, "Misinformation" really means "inconvenient / opposing views" or any dissenting view based in logic, scientific process or structured rational argument and in many cases **facts** that differs from the prevailing view of the incumbent power.

I hope that the democratic ideal is still the basis of the Australian context of Government, and our Government will not sink into communist ideals reflected in the proposed Bill to pass the "Misinformation Law".

In summary, it is abhorrent to think that a democratic Australian Government would even consider passing powers to the Judiciary to impose financial and imprisonment penalties onto its citizens for vocalising or publishing dissenting views to the incumbent power. Australia is a democracy, the citizens can, and do, discern disinformation from credible information, Australian citizens are capable of evaluating issues and arriving at conclusions without the benefit of Government censorship, intervention or interference. Australia does not need this repressive communistic "Disinformation Law", we are, and hopefully will continue, to be cemented in a Constitutional Democracy.