

I do not agree with the proposal for the following reasons:

There already exists sufficient legal provision against hate speech, scams and slander. I do not believe that 'misinformation' is a danger to the Australian people; I do believe that the concept of 'misinformation' is; this is pure censorship and a worrying attack on free speech. People have always been exposed to large amounts of information which they must use their discretion, discernment and intelligence to sort through. Newspapers frequently present sensationalism, not facts; advertising presents false claims as truth. A sceptical mindset is a prerequisite to navigate the modern world without being taken in at every turn.

What is worrying about this proposed amendment is, who decides what is misinformation? Over the past 4 years we have seen verifiable facts, such as, "the covid 19 'vaccines' are not safe and effective and have harmful side effects" vilified as misinformation, and the people who try to disseminate this information, attacked and silenced, while the true misinformation, that "covid 19 'vaccines' are safe and effective with no harmful side effects", was disseminated by the people sitting in judgement. If they knew the facts and were deliberately propagating false and harmful information, then they themselves were disseminating 'disinformation.' It is interesting that the government is still promoting this fallacy when the 'vaccine' manufacturers themselves have admitted that their products are not safe and effective. This would seem to indicate that once the government has taken a stance they stick to it and do not perform due diligence by keeping up to date with current and emerging data.

Doctors who recommended effective, proven measures against coronavirus were threatened with disciplinary action and accused of spreading harmful misinformation, when they were actually providing information that could save lives. The silencing of this information has cost thousands of lives. If this were a deliberate action on the part of the decision makers it would be an act of mass murder. If it was just ignorance and poor judgement it still cost thousands of lives.

So called 'Fact checkers' did not check facts, they merely censored any alternative views and repeated propaganda, such as 'Covid vaccines are thoroughly tested for safety' which has

since been shown to be untrue. They did not provide any research or data to back up their claims, whereas the information they 'fact checked' was frequently meticulously researched and published in professional journals, such as The Lancet and British Medical Journal. This indicates that we cannot trust a governmental agency to decide what is fact and what is misinformation, as they have themselves been, knowingly or unknowingly, promoting the spread of misinformation for the past four years.

The exemption for the purposes of entertainment and satire works both ways and is also worrying. This is granting permission to mock and ridicule other people's beliefs while denying those people the opportunity to respond. This could be seen as state sanctioned gaslighting and bullying.

People have the right to believe what they choose. There is no place in an enlightened society for thought police. If a person's beliefs lead to them behaving in an illegal manner, we have laws to deal with that. It is the actions, not the thoughts or beliefs, that are illegal. This amendment looks worryingly like the work of a dictatorship and not a democracy.