

## On Information

Inform: from the Latin informare: “to shape, give form to, delineate”, or figuratively, “to train, instruct, educate”.

Misinformation: incorrect or misleading information.

Logically, if one does not inform accurately or fully, then they misinform and mislead. They give incorrect “shape” or “form” to a subject, or fail to “delineate” the breadth of the subject, failing to properly instruct or educate.

Now, consider the case where politicians tell only part of the story, obfuscate, or give answers that evade directly answering the question. Clearly, they communicate misinformation, just as the Australian Labor Party is doing in relation to the referendum on the Voice to Parliament. Our Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese accuses the “No” voters of spreading misinformation, but that is only by his definition, which is suspect.

I have pondered the issue whilst listening to the arguments of both sides, and have concluded with my own thoughts. Emphasis – *my thoughts*. I am not always right, but my conclusions are always well considered, as objectively as possible. I publish my thoughts for others to consider, not to misinform or mislead. The danger I find in this proposed legislation is the suppression of free speech, when such views refute or rebut government statements. An even greater danger is that governments are excused from this legislation, allowing them to deliberately mislead but not be held to account. The very essence of democracy, “government by the people”, is that the people be allowed to hold governments to account, through ongoing public dialogue, not just through periodic elections. By the time an election comes around, the

damage will already be done, just as it will be done if this legislation is allowed to pass.

We must never allow any government to be above the people it is sworn to represent. We must never allow any government to silence dissent. This proposed legislation presents an ever present danger to our democracy, an imminent threat to the freedom of the Australian people.