



New ACMA powers to combat misinforma...

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I strongly oppose the 'Amendments ...misinformation and disinformation' Bill. In what is supposed to be a democratic country, in which freedom of speech and expression will not be suppressed or controlled, this is an outrageous contradiction to those basic human rights. Who will be the judge of what is deemed 'misinformation' or 'disinformation'? What will be the criteria for establishing 'False, misleading or deceptive' information?

This is a very grey dangerous area which can easily be corrupted with the potential for only 'government approved information' being allowed to be displayed and shared.

Recently, there have been many so-called 'fact checking' parties who have made claims about 'misinformation' which has resulted in that information and/or party who has posted the 'misinformation', being discredited. More often

than not, the claimed 'misinformation' has later proven to be a truth, with comments thrown around like, 'we didn't have enough information at the time to know this'. Evidently, some people did and it should never have been called 'misinformation'. It is our fundamental right to have access to all information and opinions and make our own informed judgement on how we interpret this information. We do not need a group of people making arbitrary decisions on what is 'misinformation'.

Furthermore this Bill will enable authoritarian powers to potentially force individuals who have been flagged as spreading misinformation, to attend a court hearing without the right of refusal due to concerns of self-incrimination. Not adhering to this could result in a fine of \$500000!!! This is ridiculous and a complete overreach of power!

This Bill must be stopped.