

Leanne Daniell

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12 July 2023

SUBMISSION

On The Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023

Dear Committee,

Thank you for accepting submissions regarding The Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023

Please find attached my submission.

Yours sincerely,

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Leanne Daniell

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SUBMISSION

Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023

Official control of the narrative of online content by Government via ACMA is a very bad thing.

This will stifle Freedom of Speech.

We have a right to collect information and decipher truth without Government interference controlling what is deemed to be the truth.

It is an outrageous attack on free speech to allow ACMA to decide what online content constitutes harm to the health of Australians and the Environment and to enforce the silencing of other opinions.

With threats of huge fines, online tech companies will censor anything that does not confirm the Government narrative of what is truth.

Government control, via ACMA, over what information is allowed, is more of a threat to the safety and wellbeing of Australians and our democracy, society and economy than allowing online differing opinions to the Governmental narrative.

Why are your own Government and media exempted from being subject to this misinformation and disinformation?

This shouts of control with no accountability and has always been used by authoritarian regimes throughout history.

To control online information communicates the message that Government is afraid of the truth and people's right to search out the truth.

The best way to combat misinformation is always free and open debate, NOT censorship!