

Submission to ACMA -14th July, 2023 – Dr Michael McGowan

Australian men and women have died and suffered over 100 years fighting against tyranny to preserve our freedoms. The federal government has no right to either significantly reduce, or take away any of these fundamental rights of a democratically constituted nation. There are already effective laws in place to prevent vilification, slander and malicious statements being made. Further, in the proposed Bill the definitions of misinformation and disinformation are far too broad, and thus there is a very real risk that if this Bill was passed it would severely limit free speech in the Australian community. Having as one of the criteria 'anything considered by ACMA that may cause harm to the Australian environment' demonstrates how blatantly the current federal government is prepared to use legislation to drive their own ideologies. Finally, why should politicians be exempt from this proposed Bill. The failure of politicians to recognise that when you give your word on something you stand by it and take full responsibility for all consequences is a blight on Australian society.