

New ACMA powers to combat misinformation and disinformation

"The party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command". - George Orwell, 1984

Never were there more appropriate words to describe the outcome of these proposed laws.

You would have us be subject to an unelected and unknown body of nameless people, supposedly independent, to create a code of practice or worse, create and enforce an 'industry standard' to decide what truth is, and what should be allowed to be expressed and disseminated. That this is even being considered is horrendous to say the least.

Who decides what truth is? Who decides what misinformation is? What analytical process do you have for this? AI? Someone else's algorithm? Personal bias? What government decides is truth? The agenda of elites, media, in cahoots with who else? And pray tell, who regulates the regulators?

This MUST NOT STAND. We, the people, have the right to use our own brains, our own processes of deduction and to make our own decisions about what our opinions are. Laws like this should never have been up for discussion. There is no good way of doing this, no trustworthy secular organisation to decide what to suppress or cancel and what to allow. Manipulation and deceit will be the only fruits of this law. There is certainly no way of balancing these laws with the exercise of free speech as you so cavalierly claim like a parent whispering a soothing promise to console a child. Nor can any organisation get to the bottom of what 'true' information is or is not in every sphere of knowledge. We have already seen too much suppression and manipulation of information that rather than protect the public, has carefully skewed its understanding in the way the media (too often influenced by government) wants it. Trust the media? Right Trust those who are supposedly regulating the media? Sure.....

Australia is a pluralistic society. Apparently (though clearly not for long if this Bill is passed) we are a free country, where a variety of beliefs and opinions exist and where tolerance is touted as our biggest draw card. But the proposed laws are nothing less than a power grab for an elite power to enforce its own agenda upon us and to silence anyone who dares to offer an inconvenient fact or question whatever narrative is chosen by said elite. Democracy is where the people decide. We are not underlings to be manipulated by a regulator deciding what we can or cannot say, or what information we must be 'protected from'. We are not free to decide unless we are fully informed, not partially informed, not informed with the facts you carefully choose for us to consume. Fully informed. And we are certainly not underlings who must be monitored and whose words or online activity must be kept as a record for what can only be understood as extremely and dangerously vague crimes such as 'misinformation'. Who do you think you are?

If you want to counter misinformation you do this by allowing open dialogue with freedom of information and a robust discussion, not by creating a 'ministry of truth'. This is totalitarianism. And if by some miracle suspending the usual laws of human nature it doesn't start off that way, this will certainly be the outcome. Read your history (if you can that is.... much of it has already been suppressed under the banner of 'misinformation').

Anyone with eyes to see can see where this is going – and this is not hyperbole:

"Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book was rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered. And the process is continuing day by day and minute by minute. History has stopped. Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right." - George Orwell 1984

We have been warned. And now so have you. Know your place and don't overstep the mark.

Live not by lies.