

The disinformation and misinformation bill, I believe is one of the greatest threats to democracy. My question who gets to define what is misinformation or disinformation?

In relation to COVID, it was a rapidly evolving disease and vaccines were trying to catch up.

There are two theories about the origin of COVID, that it was spread by a bat or leaked from the lab. It is impossible to know the truth without the full cooperation of the Chinese government.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the COVID lab leak theory was dismissed as a conspiracy theory and would be regarded as misinformation/disinformation and early in 2023, the director of the FBI, Christopher Wray says that the COVID lab leak theory was likely.

<https://www.9news.com.au/world/fbi-director-wray-acknowledges-bureau-assessment-that-covid19-likely-resulted-from-lab-incident/8890e5be-27ef-461b-b593-4d698f79a0b7>

Now back to an Australian political issue. The issue of the voice in the constitution. We have been told by the government that the Voice will be an advisory body The Australian Constitution was set up to give a framework on how we are governed as a nation from the number of representatives to who can represent us. In my view, the only reason the Voice will go in the constitution is for governance of the nation. If the Voice, is such a good idea and will improve the lives of the Indigenous people, why not legislate it. WThe No case by the Yes case that we are racist amongst many other points. One argument by the Yes campaign is "It has been carefully devised and given the green light by legal experts." but the details of the Voice will be designed by the Parliament. If the government decides that the NO campaign is misinformation, they have have pulled from the social media sites.

With mainstream media and the government exempt from this misinformation, it allows them to control the narrative and most people once in power will do anything to keep it. Now if the shoe was on the other foot and Liberals was in power, they could bring in laws against unions and the Labour party couldn't debate it.

Allowing bad ideas to be discussed, helps keep debated open, but censoring information will drive those conspiracy theories further to the ground.

I ask that you drop this bill and protect our democracy, where we are free to debate

Kind regards

Robert McWilliam

