

## **Response to ACMA 'Misinformation/Disinformation' Bill 2023**

If passed, the so-called 'misinformation/disinformation' bill has the power to silence me and my fellow Australians and indeed any dissenting voice. It is the greatest single threat to free speech in living memory.

Nobody should have the power to tell me what to see/believe or not to see/believe. As an intelligent human being I have the freedom to research any information I am not familiar with or would like more information on. But these differing views and information need to be available to access and to enable informed decisions to be made personally by me – not by anyone else and especially when their morals and integrity do not match mine.

I do not agree to someone else deciding for me what I will or will not hear or learn about on digital platforms. The interpretation and criteria deciding the label of 'misinformation/disinformation' may be influenced by many factors including monetary gains etc. This would not align with the values and morals of most Australians.

Most of the information on digital platforms over the past 3 years that was labelled 'misinformation/disinformation' has now been proven to be factual, honest, and correct but was censored and hidden by people and organisations with an agenda resulting in financial gain. There are many scientific and medical studies and reports, fact checked and correct, to back this up which could have saved a lot of people from very real and serious harm.

I fail to see exactly what 'serious harm' is caused by people being allowed to access all information and to make their own informed choice on subjects that matter to them or to bypass or delete any offensive information as determined by them.

Stupidity and corruption will always be a human factor that determines what people believe or do not believe or how 'criteria' is set. My right to freedom of information and to make a personal decision on what I choose to see or delete, should not be threatened because of stupidity, corruption, or the control of content on digital platforms.

*"Why these powers are needed: Misinformation and disinformation spread via digital platform services is a major issue worldwide. The rapid spread of false, misleading, and deceptive information online has resulted in a multitude of harms from disrupted public health responses to foreign interference in elections and the undermining of democratic institutions."* ..... This paragraph says it all! The rapid spread of information online has in fact saved many lives and alerted people to serious dangers to their health in the face of experimental and unproven government public health responses. The only foreign interference I know of is the way the Australian Government blindly followed the drama of the foreign health advice without gauging the actual real and minimal threat to the Australian people. This is exactly my point on what ACMA 'criteria' will destroy.

The so-called 'powers' ACMA will have to 'encourage' digital platform services to comply, will quite obviously be forceful, restrictive, and determined by the ACMA agenda/criteria. I don't see any fairness or integrity being shown by ACMA to digital platform services at all.

This blatant attempt to control information that does not fit the narrative or 'criteria' is so obviously an attempt to threaten free speech once and for all in Australia and is a direct attack on the intelligence of the Australian people.