

New ACMA powers to combat misinformation and disinformation

I am writing my strong opposition to the Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023.

This Bill states that, “Misinformation and disinformation pose a threat to the safety and wellbeing of Australians, as well as to our democracy, society and economy.” Who is deciding what misinformation and disinformation is? Who is deciding what is fact and what is not? The biggest threat to democracy is the censorship this Bill will enable.

I have seen MANY examples of so-called misinformation being censored to then turn out to be fact.

This Bill is very undemocratic! The ‘powers’ would NOT increase transparency. It would be the opposite.

Why is the government so worried? Does it think so little of its citizens? In a democratic society, information should always be discussed and debated, not censored. Censorship promotes distrust amongst citizens. Distrust of government is increasing and this Bill will only make it increase more.