

## Combating Misinformation and Disinformation

Dear Sir / Madam

I'm outlining here my apprehensions and fears on this proposed legislation combating misinformation and disinformation.

I fear that this legislation will severely curtail an individual's freedom of speech and freedom to express an opinion. This could be the "thin edge of the wedge" that will eventually lead to a complete and total suppression of one's freedom of speech and freedom of expression.

Who will be the one that will determine what is misinformation or disinformation? Is it going to be the government, ACMA or some other bureaucracy? Will it be the media or any of a number of social media platform providers? Irrespective of whom the arbitrator is this entity will have carte blanche powers in determining what is misinformation and disinformation.

The Covid lockdowns, together with forced wearing of masks and the illegal mandates on forced vaccinations has provided the government with unprecedented powers. Once we give the government additional powers over our lives, they will never relinquish it. I'm afraid this proposed legislation is a way for them to further consolidate their power and to hold on to it.

Despite the constant government rhetoric on wanting to be transparent, the reality is far from it and this draft legislation is proof of that. The government doesn't want us to know the truth; they fear the truth will expose their lies. And what better way to stop that than by curtailing our ability to find the truth. By giving them the power to define what is truthful and what is not and labelling any dissenting view or opinion as misinformation or disinformation, we will be letting the government become the sole arbitrator of what information we can receive.

This will be the beginning of a totalitarian form of government and we will become a fascist nation ruled by despots. I don't want that to happen and I hope neither do you.

Respectfully,

Fred\_B