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- confirmation whether or not your submission can be made public—published—or kept confidential –
 I confirm it’s okay for my submission to be made public/published but please **do not include my home address or phone number.**

This proposed law is un-Australian. Unlike some other overseas nations, Australians have never been prone to authoritarian ideology, such as Nazism or Stalinist Communism, where dissenting views were not allowed. As a citizen of this country, I am extremely frightened at the thought that our government could become so authoritarian as to limit the free flow of information in any way, deciding what the rest of us know and what we don’t know. What is most disturbing is the proposal to give the government the power to **enforce** this.

History shows that freer, less restricted flow of information was instrumental in liberating western Europe, centuries ago, from the authority and ideology of the religious elites, mainly the Catholic Church as it was then; largely by the invention of the printing press and mass production of cheaper books, so that much more information became available to the ordinary people. The entire progress of civilization ever since then was facilitated by the greater and freer flow of information to greater numbers of people, **which encouraged questioning and dissent from what the elites dictated**, allowed broader modes of thinking and the blossoming of innumerable new ideas by these larger numbers of people; which could never happen when restricted to relatively fewer elites, even though the religious elites believed they were virtuous, and knew best. This expansion and sharing of ideas by exponentially more people, led to the remarkable rapidity of scientific discovery and even better methods of communication and transportation in the years thereafter, plus significant social improvements, such as the elimination of government sanctioned slavery, the Geneva conventions, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - all of which created the modern world.

As to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; how can you even consider making a law in Australia, contrary to Article 19 of that Declaration: *Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.*

I strongly believe civilizations will advance, progress and succeed, or stagnate and fail, according to how much and how free is the information flow to the maximum number of people. If it’s restricted here, in any way, Advance Australia Fair (as in our national anthem) – is not going to happen.

Please don’t ruin our civilization and our country. Don’t restrict the free flow of information and decide what information we can or cannot access in Australia.

I have particular concerns about these proposals, where the government will **enforce** what is misinformation and disinformation

- enable the ACMA to request industry develop a code of practice covering measures to combat misinformation and disinformation on digital platforms, which the ACMA could register **and enforce**
- allow the ACMA to create **and enforce** an industry standard (a stronger form of regulation), should a code of practice be deemed ineffective in combatting misinformation and disinformation on digital platforms.

Although it's stated in the proposed legislation that "The ACMA will not have the power to request specific content or posts be removed from digital platform services", **I have grave doubts about this because our government is already threatening to fine Twitter an enormous fee every day for content that our government disapproves of. Therefore, I have fair reasons to be concerned by our government creating legislation to give themselves any more power in this respect.**

Please don't pass any law **at all** that will allow the government to decide **and enforce** what is information or disinformation, or limit the sharing of information and exchange of ideas – in social media or any other kind of media.