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Misinformation & Disinformation Bill 2023

This proposed Bill looks like something déjà vu for me. And that is truly scary and frightening.

Having made my home in Australia some 42 years ago and coming from the other side of the world, the sheer thought of re-living my early childhood, fills me with dread.

Born during WWII I can remember the times after the war ended and what happened to part of my country and my fellow countrymen and women. My family was lucky, we managed to reach West Germany and settle there – however so many of my family were trapped in the “German Democratic Republic” (after Germany was divided) where EVERYTHING was controlled, forbidden, criminalised and then lived under communism with NO free speech. Only the narrative the Government put out mattered and everyone having a different opinion was enemy of the state.

This scenario being proposed by this bill is totally unacceptable in a freedom loving country like Australia with an amazing mix of nationalities having made their home here.

It is understandable that in this day and age due to technology, there are many pitfalls by having access to different information platforms, but who is to say the Government can force information onto the public they seem to see as the only truth?

We have lived through some horrendous times lately, were told what to do and what to believe only to find out 3 years later how most of what we were told was indeed incorrect and outright lies. And that information came from the Government – “for our health and safety.”

No Government should have any say over what is mis- or disinformation. This should be left to the individual to research and decide. We are all born with a brain and can think for ourselves.

It is a sad state of affairs that due to Australia’s isolation, many people have never been exposed to true dictatorial tyranny and the slippery way into it, what it means and how it would impact on their lives. Who is truly interested in history and how things developed over time? By feeding the public just one side of a story is never acceptable. That is not living in a democracy!

I will do my utmost to try and open peoples eyes what this bill proposes to do to our freedom of speech and hope that many – including the younger generation who seem so removed from the past at least start thinking and evaluate the options before them.