25/7/2023

Submission.   A Free and Open Society.

I wish to express my opposition and concerns regarding the proposed Parliamentary Bill to supervise, censor and prosecute Social Media Publishers and Open Media Platforms.

The proposed Bill and associated measures would undermine and violate Australia's historical endorsement and support as a signatory to the United Nation's Charter of Human Rights Article 19.

Our Nation has a historical record of recognising in law our Citizen's Common Law Rights of free speech, assembly and publishing. Online Publishers are the new "Market Square" and provide the connection and a 'rostrum' for public access to information and the free discussion of ideas and current events.

The Government's proposed new Bill for oversight of various Main Stream Media Platforms will directly stifle the ability for the dissemination and communication of information and website material for discussion and debate, so that Australia's citizens can participate and arrive at an informed consensus to Social and Government policy.

The argument for the need to "Police and Censor" harmful and offensive material is already regulated and prosecuted under Federal and State Criminal Law and does not require another layer of unelected Bureaucratic supervision and enforcement.

The publication of 'Hate' speech and indecent material on social material platforms is a criminal matter and already has the appropriate criminal statues necessary to supervise and prosecute.

I am sure the majority of Australian citizens hold their right to free speech and the circulation of information in print a sovereign right and would oppose the implementation of a Bill which would restrict and control their access to and the open and free publishing of opinion and information online.

The imposition of this Bill will provide the opportunity to limit and control conversation and for political intrusion into public and private speech.

"Once you start censoring, you're on your way to dystopia and totalitarianism." RFK Jr.

Yours sincerely,

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