

Re Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation)  
Bill 2023

This Bill is monstrous. It proposes to put in the hands of 6 people, and presumably the Government, the decision about what is 'misinformation' and what is 'disinformation' and could 'harm the Australian public'. And it gives them the power to punish online media organisations for inadequately censoring what they, ACMA, deem to be incorrect. This would be the end of freedom of speech and democracy in Australia. It is Orwellian. It would mean for example the end of availability of online discussion of scientific research that doesn't agree with the Government agenda. Science is never a done deal, it is an ongoing process of research, discussion and analysis and meta-analysis. The Australian people don't need to be treated like children with the Government protecting them from information that could 'harm' them. This censorship is the source of harm. Freedom of speech online and offline is what will protect the Australian people from harm.... and from a dictatorial and tyrannical government that is serving its own ends, not the needs of the people.