

## ACMA SUBMISSION

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong and absolute opposition to this proposed Orwellian Communications Legislation Amendment (Combating Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023.

This Bill, if enacted, will be an obtrusive invasion and breach of our human democratic right to freedom of expression and speech. I do not consent for any regulatory authority to store my personal details or online comments in any kind of data base to determine whether I should be punished for exercising my right to free speech. This has got a CCP stamp of Social Credit Scores all over it and is a slippery slope which should never be set into action or law.

Australia is fast deteriorating into a complete “nanny state”. I have observed this coming for many years but it has gone into overdrive, particularly over the past 3 years. This is an act of complete government overreach, which persists and must stop now. We the people do not wish or ask our government to be over-governed. We have a right to live a free and unhindered life without oppressive government interference.

This Bill is yet another step in the wrong direction. The Australian government had advised Facebook to remove certain posts over the past few years if they did not fall in line with the government’s narrative, claiming they were misinformation/disinformation, when in fact years later we learn that some of it was proven to be correct and factual information!

Who are the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and where do they get their funding from?

Who are they associated and aligned with?

How do they “fact check” the information and who decides if the content is misinformation or disinformation? And who “fact checks” the fact checkers?

These are all relevant questions as it is well known that information that is provided to the public is subject to biases based on the narrative its source supports and who received funding to provide that information. Conflicts of interest are historically perceived to direct politics. An example of this (within an industry) is the Coca Cola Company funding studies into the effects of sugar, with the scientists on the payroll downplaying the damaging effects of sugar in the diet.

Since you feel it’s necessary to protect the public from misinformation and disinformation, perhaps you can focus your attention on the harmful misinformation and disinformation that the main stream media has been peddling. Not to mention their omission of crucial correct information.

So, hands off the public’s right to freely express our opinions. Allow the public to use their own discernment – and do their own research, if so inclined – on the information they come across on- line, on social media. We do not need a government chosen entity monitoring and censoring information that is being shared. We can all use our own judgement, thank you.

What we do not need is more government overreach in the way of this act which seeks to thwart and punish individual - and collective - freedom of expression and speech and erode the right to share information without threat of punishment.

We do not currently have a Bill of Human Rights in this country, but we surely need one.

Yours Sincerely,

Jodi Brown