

To the Minister for Communications,

Re: Communications Legislation Amendment (Combating Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which Australia helped to draft in 1948 states: “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.”

Regulating truth on social media will not protect democracy, it will suppress it.

This Bill’s vague definitions of “misinformation” and “disinformation” are open to interpretation and abuse by those making decisions about that interpretation. Identifying acts of terrorism, child sexual abuse and violence is one thing but who decides what constitutes “mis” or “dis” information and what is “harm”?

The fact that the bill explicitly exempts any government communication, at any level of government, from being considered misinformation or disinformation, shows how dystopian this law will be, especially following the last three years of Government misinformation about the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 gene therapy “vaccines”, the censorship of credible scientific and medical information about the risks of death and serious adverse effects of the COVID-19 injections plus the “vaccination” coercion, which deprived people of their ability to give informed consent.

This Bill would not only apply to public health, as we have already witnessed in the mass-censorship of contrary analysis relating to COVID-19, it would also apply to other issues, such as, the science underpinning climate change ideology, questions about high immigration, questions about gender dysphoria as well as the ‘no’ campaign against the voice to Parliament. When the ‘truth’ becomes a subjective tool, this country would be on a very slippery slope towards fascism.

While the Bill’s penalties won’t apply to individuals, it will enforce a regime of suppression of any speech on social media that undermines government claims.

We currently think of Australia as a democratic country therefore **I disagree with giving any Government, Institution or other entity the ability to exercise control over information or ideas.**

This Bill should not be passed.

Regards,

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