

New ACMA powers to combat 'misinformation and disinformation'

Submission on exposure draft of the Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023.

SUBMISSION.

“

Article 19 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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.**

I am most perplexed by the actions of those in crafting this legislation and advocating for these ideas. It appears that their decisions, influenced by financial incentives, may have negative consequences not only for others but also for themselves. This legislation has significant implications for life in Australia and those who contribute to its creation will inevitably be bound by the limitations it imposes. It is important to recognise the potential long-term effect of such legislation, as they may result in **silencing not only the present but also future generations.**

Lobbying.

“

Lobbying means any attempt to influence the decision-making of a government or opposition representative in the exercise of their official functions on behalf of a third party, **for a fee or other reward.**

Lobbying has become the crack in democracy, opening the door for conflicts of interest, corruption, and compromised individuals to influence policy-making. **Lobbying allows powerful interests to exert undue influence** on decision-makers, often to advance their own agendas at the expense of the public good.

We must contribute as ordinary taxpayers, but lobbyists, acting as intermediaries for corporations or special interest groups, wield significant influence by financially supporting politicians who deliver on their set objectives, which prioritise corporate power and profits. This disconnect undermines democracy, exacerbating the gap between political interests and the welfare of the people they are meant to serve.

This proposed legislation has made its way to Australia through this crack. This legislation silences debate—**silencing any opposition** to the atrocities and human rights violations committed and about to be committed upon the Australian population to meet the demands of lobbying giants, the UN, the WEF, the WHO and their pharmaceutical partners who wish to advance their goals unchallenged.

Currently, 178 Nations are being led into a dark and inhumane future led by these organisations and masters of the manipulation of language. This future includes the sexualisation of children, citizen capture through the Digital ID, CBDC, surveillance and smart cities to name a few, in order to secure complete power and control over populations.

We need more debate on these, and many more alarming issues, not more censorship in order to protect Australians from these lobbying giants and their dark minds.

Democracy.

Examining democratic principles is crucial as they form the foundation of a just society. Democracy ensures political equality, **empowers citizens to participate in decision-making**, protects individual rights and freedoms, embraces diversity and pluralism, **promotes transparency and accountability**, and upholds the rule of law.

By understanding and upholding these principles, we can foster a society that **respects human rights**, ensures representation and participation, encourages open dialogue, and **safeguards against abuses of power**. Examining democratic principles allows us to critically assess the fairness, legitimacy, and effectiveness of laws, policies, and institutions, ensuring that our societies continue to thrive as democratic countries.

Democracy is a form of government in which **power is vested on the people**, who exercise it either directly or through elected representatives. It is a system that emphasises the principals of political equality, majority rule and **protection of individual rights and freedoms**. In a democratic society, citizens have the right to participate in decision-making processes, **express their opinions and hold their government accountable**.

Democracy ensures that citizens have the right to participate in the political process, including the ability to vote in free and fair elections and **engage in peaceful protests or demonstrations**. It **upholds individual rights and freedoms**, safeguarding principals like **freedom of speech**, assembly, religion, and the press. Democracy values **diversity**, fostering a society where **different perspectives, beliefs and interests** are included, **allowing for open expression and debate**.

It allows for a **pluralistic society** where **various opinions and ideas** can be **freely expressed and debated**, **whether in person or online**.

www.moadoph.gov.au

In a democracy, the people serve as the vital **checks and balances that hold our government accountable**. A government with the power to censor its critics risks escaping scrutiny and accountability for any potential wrongdoing. Throughout history, instances of government censorship have been associated with **abuses of power** and the suppression of opposing voices. When authorities control information and limit free expression, the potential for **atrocities and corruption** becomes pervasive.

A healthy and thriving democracy depends on the collective power of its citizens **to question, challenge, and hold those in power accountable**. Looking back at history, we find that those who engaged in censorship were rarely on the right side of justice. Protecting the right to oppose and preserving free expression is crucial to ensuring transparency, **preventing abuses**, and upholding the principles that underpin a fair and just society.

Democracy thrives on the principles of **government accountability** and transparency, **ensuring that public officials remain answerable to the people**. It fosters freedom through oversight, checks and balances, and the right to access information, all aimed at **preventing abuses of power and corruption**. However, this proposed legislation, which concentrates power, **shuts down democracy and accountability**. This **legislation seeks to consolidate authority**, it threatens to undermine the democratic process, **impeding our ability to hold those in power accountable** and diminishing the core values that uphold a democracy.

This legislation hinders the democratic right of questioning, seeking alternative perspectives, **and holding the government accountable** when doubts arise or information feels inconsistent. The ability to critically examine, **validate**, and **challenge government actions** and narratives is vital for upholding democratic principles. It ensures transparency, encourages **robust public discourse**, and helps **prevent the consolidation of power**. Restricting the ability to question and seek alternative perspectives risks **undermining the democratic process and inhibiting the public's ability to hold those in power accountable**.

The Manipulation of Language.

Lobbying giants have misleadingly influenced perspectives around this legislation by portraying it as a measure to protect public safety. By using fear tactics and appealing to people's concerns about safety and well-being, they seek to **manipulate the public mindset** and divert attention from the broader implications for democracy.

Under the guise of safeguarding the public, they obscure the fact that this legislation may **curtail free expression, limit access** to diverse information, and **grant excessive and consolidated powers to control the flow of information.**

The misleading portrayal conceals the **erosion of democracy**, allowing lobbyists to advance their interests while veiling the true impact on individual rights, transparency, and **democratic accountability**. Being vigilant and critically examining the legislation is essential to see through these manipulative tactics and preserve the core principles of democracy.

"Misinformation" and "Disinformation."

This is not merely about silencing opposition; it is about suppressing objections to **egregious acts**. This involves men undergoing medical treatments to chemically 'chest feed' and potentially harm infants, dismembering a child in the womb up to the point of birth, performing castrations on children without parental consent, and jailing parents who object as per the legislation already enacted in Melbourne.

These atrocities are the distressing realities that are steering us towards a previously unthinkable darkness, **led by individuals with the sickest of minds**. Tragically, our complicity in these **crimes against humanity** cannot be ignored, and it is imperative that we confront and address these issues to **protect the values that define us as human beings**.

The objective here is clear: **to silence individuals with a conscience that are speaking out**. Industry experts are witnessing misleading data being presented to the public, while young adults share their stories of regretting being allowed to transition genders at a young and impressionable age. Those who have suffered vaccine injuries are also silenced.

These voices are not misinformation; rather, they represent inconvenient truths challenging those seeking to manipulate information to control public opinions. The attempt to suppress these voices underscores a concerning need to control perspectives and limit access to diverse points of view, **ultimately affecting the beliefs and choices of the masses to increase power and control of these sickly minded lobbyists**.

The act of silencing opposition is deeply concerning and presents a grave threat to the principles of democracy and **human rights**. This legislation **stifles objecting** to these atrocities, and critical issues are brushed aside and genuine

concerns are dismissed. The disregard for parental consent, the pursuit of extreme measures without regard for human dignity, and the absence of open debate on critical matters raises serious ethical and moral questions.

The lack of accountability and transparency of these actions casts a shadow on the democratic process and the protection of **basic human rights**. As we move forward, it is crucial to **acknowledge our role** in addressing these issues, for **turning a blind eye or remaining complacent makes us complicit**. It is our collective responsibility to speak out against this disastrous legislation.

Masters of Manipulation.

The use of the terms "misinformation" and "disinformation" are manipulative when their true intent is to obscure inconvenient truths. These labels are often **wielded to discredit these opposing voices or alternative viewpoints that challenge** the prevailing narrative. By labelling information as false or misleading, those in power can avoid addressing facts and maintain control over the narrative.

In reality, genuine information may be portrayed as misinformation to **dissuade public scrutiny and discourage critical thinking**. This **manipulation of language** erodes trust in the flow of information and threatens the very essence of **open and honest discourse in a democratic society**. It is essential to be vigilant against such tactics and ensure that the pursuit of truth remains at the heart of public discourse.

What is Truth?

Truth is not a static concept; it emerges through the contestation of ideas and free debate. In a dynamic and democratic society, **truth is discovered** through the collision of diverse perspectives, the **exchange of knowledge**, and the **challenge of assumptions**. Through open dialogue and respectful discourse, ideas are tested, refined, and **validated**, leading to a **deeper understanding of complex issues**.

Embracing the richness of different viewpoints fosters a culture of critical thinking, intellectual growth, and a continuous quest for truth. It is through the **freedom to debate**, questioning, and exploring that society advances its understanding and reaches closer to the ever-evolving truth.

Silencing this process is inherently **anti-democratic**, as it **obstructs the very essence of democracy**—freedom of expression, and the right to engage in respectful **debate** and disagreement. Embracing and valuing the plurality of opinions nurtures a society that upholds democracy and a person’s fundamental right to decide what is true.

Protecting the space for genuine debate is essential to **preserving the integrity of democratic discourse** and cultivating a society that thrives on the **pursuit of truth** through the collective power of ideas.

Facts and Politics.

The banning of facts solely based on **political convenience** has already been a concerning trend that undermines the principles of democracy. When posts containing accurate information are censored or restricted due to their mismatch with a particular political agenda, it jeopardizes the credibility of the information dissemination process.

Over time, many posts that were banned have been proven to be entirely factual, **highlighting the manipulation and the suppression of inconvenient truths**. Such actions raise serious questions about the extent to which **political motivations** will **influence the access to accurate information**. Promoting open discourse is essential to ensuring an informed and democratic society where truth prevails over political agendas.

Governments Dictating Truth.

The notion of the government determining absolute truth and coercing digital giants to adhere to it raises concerns about the **erosion of democracy**. In a democratic society, **the pursuit of truth** is an **essential function of open debate** and free expression. However, giving the **government unchecked authority to dictate what constitutes truth** undermines the diverse perspectives and **critical thinking that forms the basis of a democracy**.

Such a path leads to a dangerous outcome where citizens are forced to accept a singular version of truth, stifling independent thought and inquiry. **This risk of facing repercussions for expressing opposing views** could ultimately limit intellectual freedom and hinder the democratic process. **Preserving a healthy democracy requires maintaining space for robust debate** and allowing citizens to

weigh multiple perspectives, enabling them to make **informed decisions** and uphold the principles of democratic discourse.

This path leads us into to a **dangerous future** where **the freedom to believe and think independently becomes restricted**. **With attempts to control information** and **stifle opposing views**, individuals may find themselves in jeopardy merely for expressing different perspectives or questioning prevailing narratives. A society where critical thinking is discouraged, and diversity of thought is suppressed threatens to erode the very foundations of democracy.

This legislation undermines democratic principles such as political equality, individual rights and freedoms, diversity, and accountability. Its potential to grant the government **unchecked authority over information** dissemination raises concerns about its impact on democratic processes and the free exchange of ideas.

Without the ability to freely believe and think, the essence of an open and democratic society becomes at risk, and the **danger of sliding into an oppressive reality** looms. Vigilance in preserving freedom of thought and expression is essential to prevent such a chilling future.

The Dangers of the Paradox.

The Australian Government to Exclude Itself and Its Partners from Promoting Misinformation and Disinformation that the Government Itself Defines.

Excluded content for misinformation purposes means any of the following:

- (b) professional news content;
- (c) content produced by or for an educational institution accredited by any of the following:
 - (i) the Commonwealth;
 - (ii) a State;
 - (iii) a Territory;
 - (iv) a body recognised by the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory as an accreditor of educational institutions;
- (d) content produced by or for an educational institution accredited:
 - (i) by a foreign government or a body recognised by a foreign government as an accreditor of educational

- institutions; and
- (il) to substantially equivalent standards as a comparable Australian educational institution;
- (e) content that is authorised by:
 - (i) the Commonwealth; or
 - (i) a State; or

This legislation raises concerns by potentially allowing the government to selectively determine what qualifies as misinformation, leading to potential censorship or suppression of opposing voices. This raises significant concerns about its compatibility with democratic principles.

By the Government excluding itself and its partners, the news media and educational institutions, from the regulations and at the same time allowing itself to define what qualifies as misinformation is paradoxical. It undermines the core tenets of democracy, such as accountability, transparency, and equal treatment under the law.

The government granting itself the authority to determine what content is exempted from regulation creates a **power imbalance** and **huge potential threat for abuse**, as it enables the government to control the narrative, **manipulate public opinion**, and **suppress opposing voices**. In a democratic society, it is crucial for legislation to be fair, impartial, and subject to checks and balances to ensure the protection of individual.

By exempting its own content, the **government gains the authority to define and spread what it deems misinformation without being subject to the same regulations** and scrutiny. This creates a **power imbalance** and **undermines** principles of **accountability** and **transparency**. The exemption raises fears of **political manipulation**, narrative control, and **suppression of opposing views**.

Democracy relies on the free flow of information, diverse perspectives, and open debate. When a **self-regulatory body assumes the authority to determine the veracity of information**, there is a potential risk to freedom of speech and the pluralistic nature of democratic societies.

A **self-regulatory body with significant powers to determine truth may concentrate too much authority in one entity**, stifling opposing voices or alternative viewpoints. **Restricting the ability to question** and seek alternative perspectives risks undermining the democratic process and **inhibiting the public's ability to hold those in power accountable**.

We have been warned.

“

Something like 1984 could actually happen, this is the direction that the world is going in at the present time.... There will be no loyalty except loyalty to the party, but always there will be the intoxication of power... **If you want a picture of the future, imaging a boot stamping on human face forever.** The moral to be drawn from this dangerous nightmare situation is a simple one, **don't let it happen, it depends on you.**

George Orwell's final warning of his terrifying masterpiece,
1984

The moral drawn from this dangerous nightmare scenario is clear – **we must not let it happen.** The responsibility to safeguard democracy lies with each one of us to protect the core values that define us as free individuals. The future's fate depends on our collective determination to defend and uphold the principles of democracy, ensuring that the **intoxication of power** does not dictate our destiny.

Once we allow this level of control to be exerted over the people, we risk a bleak future where freedom and our fundamental rights will be **lost forever.** Once this legislation is in place, there will be no way to escape it, making it imperative that we take action to prevent its implementation. Once such controls over information and speech are enabled, it **permanently stifles opposition** and hinders the free flow of ideas, **dissolving democracy.**

Preserving democratic principles and safeguarding freedom of expression is essential to avoid falling into a situation **where opposing voices are silenced,** and critical thinking is curtailed. It is our responsibility to uphold the values that define democracy and prevent the entrenchment of a system that **inhibits our ability to question, debate, and hold those in power accountable.**

The End of Democracy?

These very act of composing this legislation does not reflect the actions of a democratic government; instead, they resemble those of a regime seeking to exert control over information, opinions, and data. Industry experts and reputable leaders in the field are being labelled incorrect as they courageously expose the truth. This becomes a major concern for manipulative lobbyists with insidious agendas.

These tactics employed to suppress opposing views and muzzle the truth are characteristic of regimes rather than democratic entities, and it is crucial to be vigilant against such efforts to protect the essence of democracy and safeguard the integrity of **open discourse to prevent the abuse of power**.

Some examples of countries that have implemented or proposed measures targeting online content and information control include China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and Vietnam. These countries have been known to restrict freedom of speech, **cancel opposing voices**, and exert control over online platforms to shape narratives and **maintain political control**.

Legislation that belongs to non-democratic countries has no place in Australia, a country founded on democratic principles and values. Australia upholds the fundamental rights of its citizens, including freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the right to access diverse sources of information.

Importing legislation from non-democratic countries would be inconsistent with the democratic fabric of Australian society. It is essential to maintain the integrity of democratic institutions, protect individual liberties, and foster an environment that encourages open dialogue, diverse perspectives, and accountability. Any proposed legislation should align with democratic principles, ensuring that Australia remains a beacon of democracy and upholds the rights and freedoms of its people.

A Grim Future.

“Our objective is not to win a debate; our **objective is to come to power**. A new concept of warfare is conquering a country from within. You conquer a country by capturing the organisation that operates inside the country, then they will like us, then they will support us, then we become their leaders, then we can betray them. We don’t have to win debates then, because if anyone disagrees with us, we (remove) them.”

The **grim reality we now face is manipulation of the very institutions that uphold democracy in this country.** The objective is not to engage in meaningful debate but to seize power through deception and control. By infiltrating and co-opting organisations and our government from within, the aim is to gain support and trust, only to betray those who believed in the cause.

Opposing views are being stifled, and opposition is systematically removed through this legislation, allowing a manipulative agenda **to advance unchallenged.** Such a reality is deeply troubling as it plays out in our reality. Vigilance and a commitment to upholding democratic values are crucial to safeguard against such nefarious schemes and preserve the true essence of democracy.

Conclusion.

In any democracy that relies on **open debate** to hold its government accountable to its citizens, **censorship has no place.** Deliberately hindering this process should raise red flags, as history has shown and predictive novels have warned about the dangers of such actions. Preserving the space for free and robust discourse is essential to safeguarding democratic values and ensuring the active participation of the people in shaping their society's future.

We are facing a grim reality of our own making, where our actions are leading us to our own detriment. By allowing measures that stifle opposing views, restrict information, and erode democratic values, we are effectively undermining our own freedom and well-being. Instead of fostering an environment of open dialogue and accountability, we are paving the way for a society where critical perspectives are suppressed, and individual liberties are compromised. It is crucial to recognise this perilous path we are on and work collectively to ensure that we protect and preserve the principles that have long defined us as **free and democratic beings.**

In conclusion, the proposed legislation represents a **fundamental departure** from democratic principles. It raises significant concerns regarding the **potential for misuse,** as it grants the government **unchecked authority** to define truth and establish itself as a **self-regulatory body** controlling information and narratives to **mitigate accountability.** A government with the power to censor its critics **risks escaping scrutiny and accountability.** Such an **imbalance of power** poses a substantial risk of limiting access to diverse perspectives and **stifling the pursuit of truth to consolidate political control.** Preserving the essence of democracy requires us all to play our role in upholding the right to free expression, enabling citizens to engage in **robust debates, preventing abuses of power and corruption,** ensuring that **public officials remain accountable to the people.**