

Contact name (to be kept Private, not published) [REDACTED],
[REDACTED]

The following can be published:

Submission by Protect Free Speech:

Preamble to the proposed Bill explanation:

"Misinformation and disinformation pose a threat to the safety and wellbeing of Australians , as well as to our democracy, society and economy."

It is with much disappointment that I write this submission. The issue as described in the preamble above says that "*misinformation and disinformation pose a threat to the safety and wellbeing of Australians as well as to our democracy, society and economy*".

I believe that that statement is **false**. Therefore, I would be censored for having a different view from that statement, if this Bill was in force.

It would not matter whether I could back up my view with evidence from a courtcase - perhaps a ruling of a High Court Judge. I have experienced being censored for posting such a ruling on social media about 2 years ago. The post (which was not in any way written by me but was a news article) went against the "guidelines" of Facebook at the time. I have not used Facebook since then.

I am against censorship, but I have been reminded that there must be some censorship to protect our morality and uphold community values. So rather than discuss the proposed Bill as a form of censorship, I will object on the grounds that it does not allow any sharing of opposing opinions.

I defend free speech, even when I disagree with others' views. That is what democracy is about. People are not so stupid that they cannot decide for themselves what is true or not. It is the nature of facts, especially anything scientific in nature, whether it be about the environment or health that facts change with time and experience. Data is collected over time and the changes bring us more information. We will not be exposed to that information if ACMA decides what is truth.

We will have no scientific advances and we will be living in a police state if the only truth we are allowed to hear is what ACMA or the government decides is the truth. We call these truths the dominant narrative. A narrative is a story. I would rather use the scientific inquiry method of hearing various alternative viewpoints and evidence before formulating my opinion. I do not want to be told what to think and only be given the facts that are approved by ACMA or the government dominant narrative.

There are already sufficient laws that protect people from harm. We slander and lie at our peril. We could be taken to court if we promote harm. However, this Bill is not helping the general public, but is a tool to shut down free speech.

I am now going to quote some famous people here:

Bishop Desmond Tutu: If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.

*This Bill is designed to oppress those who have views or facts contrary to the ACMA or government. Leave our speech alone.

Voltaire: It is dangerous to be right in matters on which the established authorities are wrong.

* I repeat: It is an injustice to limit free speech just because it differs from the established authorities. And as Voltaire said, at times the contrary view is correct.

Regarding the contrary view often being correct, that was mostly the case during the recent Covid-19 hysteria. The "official" views presented in the mainstream media have now been shown to be wrong on so many issues; from lockdowns, masks, social distancing, "vaccine" efficacy and effectiveness, and 2 weeks to flatten the curve.

Martin Luther King Jr: We should never forget that everything Adolf Hitler did in Germany was "legal".

*In other words, there are some things that are just wrong, even if they are "legal".

Leonardo Da Vinci: It is easier to resist at the beginning than at the end.

*If we do not stop this Bill before it is introduced, it is the end of free speech, which is sharing our opinions and it will impact free thinking.

If this Bill is implemented, we cannot hope to turn our once free country of Australia back to a democratic country. This limiting of the sharing of information Bill is the biggest threat to our democracy and freedom of speech that we have ever faced. It will impact on our religious and personal freedoms and will encroach on our basic human rights to think for ourselves and to not be treated as brainless slaves.

Robert F Kennedy Jr says that his father told him that "people in authority lie and the job in a democracy is to remain skeptical." Robert F Kennedy Jr has been a believer in science since he was a child. He requires evidence before believing something and will not take the word of official narratives without evidence. "The way you do research is not by asking authoritative figures what they think. Trusting experts is not a feature of science, and it is not a feature of democracy. It is a feature of religion and totalitarianism." RFK Jr

The Indigenous Voice to Parliament is presented by the government as being something that all indigenous people want, but if we had a dis and mis information Bill in effect, we would not hear that a large percentage of indigenous elders who live in remote communities are not in favour of the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. They do not want the Constitution to be changed to make them subject to Parliament. They want to keep their sovereignty. They have not been consulted. I know this because I have been allowed to see their words printed, hear their words speaking in videos, see their powerful presentations and listen to their opposing views.

So no, I do not approve the Australian government introducing this proposed legislation to form a Ministry of Truth where Australian citizens will no longer be allowed to hear alternate views or express an opinion on many different matters.

We need to preserve the freedoms for which our forefathers fought for in wars. Censorship like this is worthy of Communist China, but not worthy of our freedom-loving country.

How can open debate and free speech be dangerous to our country? Seriously, we are not that stupid. Anyone who promotes this legislation must think that Australians are so stupid that they are going to get their feelings hurt over whatever the ACMA deems is hurtful. There will always be people who do try to lead others astray and down wrong paths. Especially with Artificial Intelligence increasing to get into the writing of stories and the possibility that we will not know if the author is real or an AI entity.

We will need to be super vigilant to investigate all stories for their accuracy and authenticate sources. However, it is a good and necessary part of remaining a democratic nation to be allowed to do our own research and to share ideas.

It is a dangerous thing to have truth in the central control of one organisation such as ACMA or any government or government body. Please do not do this. Please do not take away our free speech. It is just not acceptable. No. Not in any way, shape or form can we have this kind of censorship. It is an overreach to call unpopular notions mis and disinformation. If information is wrong, it always gets found out. Truth cannot be hidden. With enough time, the truth is always found out. However, ACMA and any government does not have a monopoly on the truth.

I find it difficult to believe that the ACMA is an independent regulator. It is doing the job of monitoring what is "truth" for the government, following government policy. How is that independent?

My final point: The government and ACMA were never appointed by we the people to be the arbitors of truth. They do not have our permission to limit our freedom to express our opinions (within the law). Leave free speech alone. It is not dangerous for people to have a different opinion from the government. After all, we do have opposing views in politics and there are many different political parties. When the government becomes the arbitor of truth, we have tyranny, we will have totalitarianism. Please do not proceed down this path towards total control of the citizens of Australia.