

**Submission on
Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and
Disinformation) Bill 2023 .**

I am a retired engineer living in [REDACTED]

When I heard of this amendment, I felt I had to make a submission, simply because I had not seen such an unacceptable piece of legislation which has the potential to strike at the heart of the fundamental values of democracy in a free Australia.

I am absolutely opposed to this Bill.

It would allow any future government to define what is or is not misinformation or disinformation, depending on their own political or social agenda. This could be a totally subjective judgement which could be used to restrict or influence public debate in any form of media or even public speech.

This Bill fails to respect the sanctity of free expression and associated rights to privacy and has the potential for misuse and to be completely undemocratic.

This Bill would allow governments to act against it's critics, simply by declaring their statements as "untrue" with no recourse, which is totally unacceptable.

I have never sided with Liberal Party before but I absolutely endorse their call and that of the Victorian Bar Association, and many others, to throw this Bill out.

Yours sincerely,
Denis Rothwell