The principle of free speech, permits, within limits, abhorrent statements, lies, and deception; there are legal remedies available should these limits be exceeded.

It is unfortunate that the leading proponent of this form of free speech, as demonstrated during the Covid pandemic, has been Government, in Australia. They promoted lies, such as "the vaccine will stop you getting sick", "the vaccine prevents transmission", "Ivermectin is a horse paste", "three day lockdowns" etc. They have never admitted to, nor apologised for, these deceptions, nor decisions based on the response of focus groups, not science.

In Queensland they are still stopping "unvaccinated" nurses working!

We discovered that statistics have been manipulated, with people who were vaccinated, and got sick/died being counted as unvaccinated (because the vaccine was only administered in the week/s prior to their deaths).

We have no inquiry into the Government actions, we have no inquiry into the subsequent excess deaths, nor the effectiveness of various regimes implemented around the world (including "do nothing").

We have seen the level of Government, and Senior public servant, incompetence, and downright bastadry, demonstrated by the Robodebt disaster. We have seen the level of Government failure to hold big business to account demonstrated by the Banking Royal Commission, and the PwC corruption; imagine if bankers, and corporate big wigs, actually got sent to prison for their crimes, like the little people!

Imagine Australia having a real treason laws, rather than the current situation where you need 4 impeccable witnesses, and a confession, to even consider doing "something", and even then there is the 'party' to consider; that is an action the Government could push, which would address the real threat to Australia (from politicians, former politicians, and senior public servants), but they would rather push more control of the 'little people' like this piece of horse raddish.

And yet, these same politicians seek the right to control the narrative, to prevent anyone daring to speak against the Government declared "truth". Do these politicians understand that George Orwell wrote the book 1984 as a warning, not a "how to" instruction manual? Australia does not need "thought Police", it does need an effective ASIO unit, Defence Unit, for dealing with foreign intrusions, and psychological operations.

What is proposed is not that. It is another attack on the freedom of normal Australians. We are already under threat, unable to debate truthfully, things relating to a person's claimed Aboriginality, as more 'discover' their Aboriginal Heritage (Racial Discrimination Act 1975 18C, 18D), for fear of offending, or insulting, someone (another one way street, because it is OK to offend or insult, the other way).

The Australian people have learnt to NOT trust the intentions, the capacity to "do the right thing", of the political class, and Senior public servants, in this country; the most feared words remain, "I'm from the Government, I'm here to help."

The Australian politicians, the public servants, have to earn back the right to have people listen to them; the idea that they can use the whip, to control the narrative, is a greater threat to stability, and peace, than their poor ability to provide good governance. Politicians would rather than worship at the feet of their parties policies, than at the feet of the public they are meant to 'serve'. Politicians are swayed by voting bases, by loud protest groups, and display a lack of contact with reality.

We CANNOT afford to have such people have such control over us, over communications, to be able to block the inconvenient truth. Requiring service providers to retain, and provide, the details of dissidents, dissenters, is a further dangerous step towards a totalitarian society. Allowing Government to determine what is misinformation, and disinformation, is a greater risk to our society, democracy, and possibly economy (in the sense that the true picture can be hidden), than online posts.

Why would you let a failed system, of people have demonstrated their failure to be trustworthy, a system that cannot fix itself, be granted further control over the community; first demonstrate that politicians, and public servants, can tell the truth, and differentiate between the truth, and the story they want to put out, before seeking to control the public's ability to research, and discuss, what may be the real truth of a matter.

The idea of effective Government is not 'doing something', being seen to 'do something', it is actually progressing the rights, the living conditions, the economic conditions of the people (just a note, this means all the people, not just select groups), the country; this does none of those things, it is simply another tick on the party agenda, a public servants pipedream, which they will implement, and then get themselves a promotion based on their effective implementation of a new piece of legislation.

If you wanted simple, and effective, all you needed to do was to ensure that a warning, that "The Australian Government warns this information should not be relied on", where you believe the information is suspect, is added at the end. Let people decided for themselves; any more is draconian.

I did not add references, as intelligent people can look up the information, themselves, FOR NOW.

Chris Eastaughffe