

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

As someone who cares about the truth, this proposed bill is a shameful piece of legislation that would give any Australian Government the power to silence, discredit, chill, de-platform, delete, censor and remove the content and credibility of anyone with a differing or inconvenient opinion than those sitting in Parliament House and their newly appointed “Ministry of Truth - ACMA”.

It is a sad indictment on our current state of political discourse that a Government would feel a Bill such as this is merited, given the misinformation that politicians spewed from their mouths during the pandemic, and the falsehoods the mainstream media outlets printed and spoke telling us the Covid vaccine was safe, 95% effective, prevented transmission and would stop you from dying - when we have seen children, young men and women, mothers and fathers dying from vaccine injuries, gaslit and marginalised by a legacy media and the majority of house representatives.

I trained as a journalist and worked for many years in mainstream news and the biggest media outlets. I have witnessed firsthand the complete disregard for truth by my former industry and colleagues, and view with despair that objectivity, accuracy, curiosity, balance and fairness have been replaced with click-bait stories and such repellent bias, its hard to stomach reading outlets I once respected to see how low they have sunk playing to ideological, political and authoritarian agendas.

There is a sickness in our society this Bill only serves to legislate. The idea that a Government body should determine “what is true” given the daily reports of political corruption, industry-capture of Government bodies, domestic surveillance and Five Eyes intelligence gathering, silencing of political opponents, censoring of people who dissent, and seeing credible scientific experts blacklisted and written off as kooks when they have every scientific reason to challenge and question bad science dressed up as saviour technology.

Most of us now know the lockdowns caused more harm than good, that a policy of sheltering the most vulnerable and allowing schools and businesses to continue operating

would have prevented the untold suffering that continues far beyond the pandemic. Yet who has been held accountable for the sky-rocketing suicides, the mental health problems that will continue for years, the destroyed lives and businesses, destabilising the global economy, providing an unprecedented wealth transfer to the global elite, eviscerating the security of the working class, damaging the health and education of children and our young, reducing public trust in public health and vaccines as well as damaging the credibility of government funded bodies such as the TGA and global organisations such as the WHO.

But still the Government continues to behave as if it did the right thing. And that it was right to silence its critics on social media platforms and shut down the voices of those who rightly questioned the lockdowns, the mandates, questioned the vaccine, questioned the censorship. It is well documented the Australian Government put pressure on social media companies to blacklist and censor those brave enough to stand up and call out the mandates, the pharmaceutical companies, their criminal behaviour, the lack of product testing - or that evidence pointed to a lab leak from Wuhan - instead calling it misinformation and disinformation.

We now know that lives and careers were ruined and Australian citizens were denied information that could have saved their lives. Not from a virus, but from a rushed, experimental vaccine using a brand new platform of delivery, that has caused thousands of adverse reactions in Australia, disabled and maimed people, and caused countless preventable deaths in both children and adults.

We were starved of the debate. Scientists, doctors and academics speaking out were deregistered and silenced. Millions of us had our posts removed and received Facebook bans for sharing factual evidence and scientific or expert opinions challenging claims that we now know were false.

When you have the “leader of the free world” President Biden telling us, “If you're vaccinated, you're not going to be hospitalized, you're not going to be in the IC [intensive care] unit, and you're not going to die” which is all factually incorrect, and a dangerous claim to make, given plenty of people took him at his word and died after being vaccinated

and did end up in the IC Unit, you have to wonder what ACMA are going to label misinformation.

And it wasn't just the President of the United States making such claims. Politicians and media outlets in Australia all came out with their own versions of this lie, making false claims about the safety and efficacy of a indemnified product that was rushed to market, and has subsequently caused untold misery for all those injured by these products. The mainstream media - exempted from this ACMA bill - were equally as complicit in sharing misinformation and misleading the public on vaccine safety and effectiveness - let alone colluding with Governments and discrediting anyone providing evidence of a lab leak. So I certainly won't be trusting the mainstream media to "tell me the truth" when I have seen first hand what the jab-injured have had to endure and the suffering that continues as a result of being shunned by a political class that would rather look away and deny responsibility.

The Covid Pandemic was a shameful episode in this country's history and there has been no sign the Federal or State Governments have learned any lessons, or shown any signs of reflecting on their actions and really asking if what they did worked in the public good. The lockdown/vaccinate strategy was highly beneficial to pharmaceutical giants and the super rich and their corporations who saw a massive wealth transfer as small businesses went under - but less good to the millions of ordinary people now struggling with a cost-of-living crisis, inflation and the continued destabilisation of the global economy.

The mainstream media continues to avoid the issue of excess deaths, or show any interest reporting on stories that show how Sweden and other countries that didn't enforce lockdowns or vaccine mandates had better outcomes all round.

But why would they care? Legacy media did well out of the pandemic. They profited from record audiences hooked into fear programming and failed to do their job holding people to account. So I ask you - why would I feel confident that a government appointed agency entrusted with determining "truth" be anything but than a shill for Government Approved Truth from Government Approved Sources?

This Bill is also a clear case of Government overreach into my mind - and my ability to think freely and for myself - in appointing ACMA as a Government Approved Arbiter of Truth. We

are supposed to have free speech in this country. Freedom of expression and the ability to be able to disagree and protest peacefully and voice dissent. This Bill is just another piece of legislation designed to erode our ability to hold Governments to account, when we can already see the levels of corruption and ideological agendas running rampant in every branch and root of our Governance system, and the blurred lines and revolving doors between Government ministries, industry, corporations and multinational behemoths dominating through donations to parties or providing backing and funding for public initiatives that serve their interests.

To think that this Bill will give ACMA the power to determine what is misinformation by fining Social Media companies and taking down posts, as it doesn't fit the political agenda of the day, is deeply concerning.

I don't need the World Health Organisation or any other global quango telling me what it is I should believe. I have my own mind to do that for me. I can see when I'm being lied to and gaslit, and I can see when someone is trying to pull the wool over my eyes and deceive me. I can see when I am being misled on a product, and I can feel when marketing claims are untrue. It is just as well I have developed these abilities as I was able to avoid becoming another jab-injured and discarded, gaslit and abandoned Australian citizen unable to share their stories on social media in case it created vaccine hesitancy. Disgusting.

I can also see with my own eyes that highly venerated scientists who spoke out on the issue had their lives, careers and reputations destroyed for daring to raise qualified and evidence based lines of question or going against the advice of the World Health Organisation.

The result of this is that I have been left with zero trust in public health as we were so misled and lied to. And I have zero trust in the Government and its appointed agencies deciding truth for me. What person in their right mind would trust the Government's judgment over their own, and disavow or disregard what we have subsequently learned about the Australian Governments and its agencies censoring, deregistering and discrediting its own citizens during the pandemic, simply as they questioned the narrative or advice given by the World Health Organisation, which I may add is an unelected organisation funded and backed by profit driven pharmaceutical corporations, that is also

aligned with the World Economic Forum, another unelected body with a disproportionate amount of influence over policy, and the lives of Australian citizens.

There is absolutely no way I am going to trust the judgment of those bodies I see to be unduly influenced, or corrupted, captured by industry or dependent on industry funding, misguided, flawed, politically or ideologically motivated - or who use their collective power to stamp out anyone who challenges their position, and cancels the opposition.

Where is the scientific rigour? Where is the the debate? Why is it that inconvenient stories and publications get buried and experts have been chilled into silence.

The idea that we must rely on legacy media for our truth - when they're so dependent on the same corruptive influences that have damaged the reputation and trust in so many of our institutions - is laughable in an age young people don't watch the news, and where many more people are switching off and turning to social media.

One of the biggest disappointments I have of the pandemic, is watching mainstream media outlets sign up to the Trusted News Initiative - and losing any independence or ability to question the narrative, or what we were being told by the World Health Organisation and others.

To think we are now in an era where it appears Emergency Laws may be enacted for all kinds of "emergency situations" decreed by the WHO giving Governments the legal power to remove our constitutional rights "for the public good" only further serves to make this proposed Bill even more concerning.

We were out of the pandemic a long time ago - but our state Government in WA has kept up its Emergency Powers, and there simply is no justification for that. It just serves to demonstrate how Governments enjoy giving themselves more power over our lives, but are reluctant to give it back, eroding ever more trust.

That the Australian Commonwealth Government misled us over Covid and silenced critics sharing inconvenient TRUE information, as Senator Alex Antics' FOI requests show, one wonders what will ACMA decide to censor once its been given the power to determine if something is "misinformation."

I will also add that we are moving through a decade of rapid technological and scientific advancement and the checks and balances are not in place to prevent misuse by the political class and the administration that serves them. I don't see many politicians with enough backbone to prevent an Ai powered version of Robodebt meets the Social Credit System meets individual Zero Carbon targets meets a Controlled Digital Currency meets a Global Vaccine Pass to travel and compulsory vaccinations thrown in - if they are told its for public safety and given an emergency to rally around. The potential for public dissent to be stamped out using this Bill is clear. It already happened in Covid. And so this Bill does nothing to provide me with any peace, for it is just another piece of legislation paving the way towards an authoritarian dystopian Orwellian future where the Government's appointed Arbiter of Truth decides what can / can't be posted.

And so I object to this Bill. It grants ACMA powers to erode more of my freedoms and ability to tap into the information I need to read, to keep myself sane, healthy and safe in a world that's in danger of losing its ability to ground in to what's real.

In closing, I call this Bill out for what it is. A patriarchal, authoritarian attempt to control the narrative, with the legislative firepower to silence any critics or credible evidence that would make populations question what they were being told. Instead if this Bill gets passed, we can look forward to the truth as told to us by cherry-picked official sources, the Trusted News Initiative of legacy media outlets desperate for audiences and revenue - and continue to see inconvenient truths wiped from our social media feeds.

This Bill is an attack on democracy, our basic human rights, our constitution, our freedom of speech and our ability to hold Governments and governance systems to account through ushering in "lawful censorship". Think as your told, do not question what you're told, and do as your told. That seems to be what this Bill is about, dressed up as public safety and wellbeing. I hold the intention it goes no further.

Thank you for your time.

