

10<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Attn: The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

House of Representatives/The Senate – Current sitting members elected by the people of Australia to serve and protect.

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

I was born in the UK, but moved to this great Australian land in 2002, as I loved the country so much, I became a citizen as soon as I was able to apply in 2004. I am a taxpayer and came to Australia as I believed it had some great opportunities and was the land of freedom, unfortunately a lot of these freedoms are being taken away from us and part of this is due to the Misinformation and Disinformation bill.

I was proud to be classed as an Australian, however, this view has now changed dramatically over the past 3 years.

I would like, at this point, to refer to the Human Rights Protections as listed on the Government website and quote “The Australian Government is committed to protecting and promoting traditional rights and freedoms, including freedom of speech, opinion, religion, association and movement.” This new bill will go against this which is very disappointing and very un-Australian.

I understand that ACMA already has powers in relation to media, however, this new bill will affect everyone’s freedom to look at different media that they feel will give them the information they require to make their own decisions. I would also question ACMA’s decision making and how they will determine what misinformation and disinformation is. We have seen over the past 3 years that misinformation has been given out by mainstream media, so will they have the same restrictions under this new bill and if not why not and again who will monitor this?

In short, your new bill will affect everyone’s right to free speech and as politicians I request that you support and represent the public who after all elected you. Australia is a democratic country and should continue to uphold the rights of its citizens.

I personally cannot support this bill and would strongly urge you to reconsider your decision to introduce The Communication Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023.

I would prefer to keep my submission confidential at this stage.

Thank you for your time in reviewing my submission.

Regards,

Mobile:

Email: