

The Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023 claims to balance freedom of expression with countering mis and disinformation but this is not the case.

This bill dramatically increases the scope of soft censorship in Australia with its proposed definition of “harm”.

This definition covers a broad range of topics while remaining vague enough that almost any information could be blocked in Australia depending on government agendas.

In order to uphold the legislations commitment to freedom of speech it's essential that the definition of harm be modified so its scope is no greater than in the Online Safety Act 2021.