

Have your say – Combating Misinformation and Disinformation Bill

I am not a social media user and I have no idea what is being talked about at any time or on any subject. I choose not to listen at all, others may choose to listen or not to listen when their interest takes them. Excluding the limited range of topics of conversation which are illegal in the national interest, eg terrorism related, I do not believe that the Government should have any more authority about what someone else is saying in a social setting than any individual. We can get up and walk away from a conversation, or we can choose to hang up or push the stop button. The government is not elected to have control over the consciences or moral choices of those who democratically elected them. This Bill aims to do just that. Freedom of thought and speech underpins democracy.

What is truth? As is often pointed out to us we live in a post-truth world. Whose truth will we live by? Surely not a government's? Many failures on many practical levels would seem to render every government ineligible to also direct the consciences and moral choices of the citizens that elected them in the first place. This proposed law seems to me to be a sure and certain way of wiping out democracy altogether and over the years that hasn't worked out too well for governments or people!

The error of government imposing truth on its people is most recently evident in the way government tried so hard to drown out the voices of anyone who dissented from the government line on Covid, who had an alternative truth to the government's truth. Hopefully one day we will know the extent of the hearts and spirits broken, the lives spoilt if not ruined, lost even, and the fruitlessness of the government's truth.

I think many of the Australian people are more cautious, more aware of what devastation government unchecked could accomplish and this proposed toe-in-the-door legislation would produce government unchecked for sure. No Ministry of Truth for us!

Vicki Ford

████████████████████
████████████████████