

Submission to ACMA inquiry regarding mis and dis-information on media platforms.

It is with a sense of disheartenment and dis-ease that I write this submission regarding the government's flawed thinking in wanting to control all access to information that our current digital technology gives us access to.

All our governments in Australia have been elected on the principles of democracy. Unfortunately, from the 1970s there has been a greater turn away from governing for the people, by the people and of the people. We have now reached the point where our elected leaders are pseudo dictators, feeling they have the power to make decisions that can affect large numbers without consultation or debate. It is here that the old saying that "Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely" holds much truth.

Since the "pandemic" in 2020 many leaders have discovered that the true power of holding the populace in fear has allowed them greater freedoms to act corruptly by minimising activities that are an integral part of freedom for its supposedly sovereign citizens. It was very evident then that all media sprouted the "government line". Especially the ABC who should hold all encompassing views on the information given, was so politically correct and they remain that way, offering nothing divergent from the government story.

Allowing the general media of newspapers and TV to have freedom to display repeated stories that give the average non discerning viewer/reader a great deal of fear that reinforces that their world is a dangerous place that requires paternalistic government measures to keep them safe is dangerous and, I believe, treacherous.

Then determining that individuals who are more discerning and want to know more of what is really going on besides that which is made made openly to the general public are to be restricted from accessing what is a basic freedom to information from whatever source they choose. Appreciating there are those individuals who are mentally not as stable who may access information that is a direct threat to the safety of others but that is still no reason to stop access to information for all.

The important thing is appropriate education. Something again our political leaders have let down successive generations due to maintaining a schooling system that is an anachronism in this fast changing digital environment we all now experience. The children are still being taught how to be prepared for life as lived in the 1950s and not our current environment of rapid changes. They are not taught by parents, society or schools about learning the value of self awareness, self discipline, self determination and discernment. They are then exposed to the insane risks of their chosen social media platforms that can

do so much emotional and mental damage or else they lose their youth to living in a virtual world of violent digital games.

These are not reasons to deny access to information that does not fit the government agenda of the day. Freedom of speech and free access to whatever information one wishes to seek has been a fundamental principle to a sovereign nation. It must remain that way.

Yours truly,
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