

Submission 1 August 2023 - To whom it may concern:

I am making a submission in response to the proposed “Communications Legislation Amendment (Combating Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023” presently before Parliament. The proposed Bill carries with it the destruction of free speech in Australia should it ever be passed.

The government is trying to justify suppressing free speech on social media on the pretext of stopping “misinformation” and “disinformation” that is “harmful”; however, each of those terms are open to broad interpretation, which makes this bill potentially far more dangerous than any perceived problem it seeks to address. Essentially, the government is seeking to squash Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (see below).

To further amplify my reasoning, I only have to present the article in the Weekend Australian, July 22-23 2023, THE NATION p4, “Banned Covid Posts ‘Totally Factual’”

The newspaper article goes on to explain that “many of 4000 social media posts secretly censored by government during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic contained factual information and reasonable arguments rather than misinformation new documents reveal. ... Senator Antic, who secured this through freedom of information, said the revelations were gravely concerning to all Australians who cared about freedom of speech. He said this amounted to a ‘censorship industrial complex’ and raised fears about this type of intervention being expanded under the proposed Misinformation Bill that would allow the issuing of multi-million-dollar fines against platforms found to be hosting misinformation or disinformation.”

Here is a sample of the factual media posts that the federal government censored:

- The Covid-19 vaccine does not prevent infection or transmission.
- Covid-19 was released or escaped from the Wuhan Laboratory in China and was funded by the US Government.
- A vaccine so safe you have to be threatened to take it for an illness so bad you have to be tested to know you have it.
- Lockdowns are ineffective.
- Covid-19 can be easily cured using the drugs Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine.
- Face-masks are ineffective against Covid-19.

All these “factual” statements contradicted “official” information and therefore the government sought at every turn to censor this very factually based information. The government now wants to dangerously expand its censorship powers after already showing its intent during Covid.

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which Australia in 1948 helped to draft, states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” When governments contrive pretexts to limit speech, they are lurching down the dangerous path to totalitarianism.

There is a spiritual level to this drive towards totalitarianism. The more government leans toward totalitarianism the more God will work against it. Bureaucrats and elected politicians will not escape Divine punishment. Basically, the more government leans toward totalitarianism the more God’s people will work actively against it through powerful and offensive prayer and courageous civil disobedience.

I can’t make it any plainer than that.

Yours sincerely, Robert ([REDACTED])