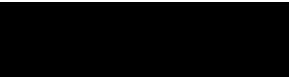


SUBMISSION TO AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT[COMBATTING MISINFORMATION AND
DISINFORMATION]BILL 2023

13 August 2023
Eric John Scroop



To the relevant Parliamentary Members

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed Bill. In fact, the crux of the matter is just this, The ability to make comment freely and without recrimination.

Being a [redacted] year old pensioner affords me the ability to have my personal view of past events and to research historical events of previous times. As can be seen with Stalin's USSR, suppression of voices, not in line with government policy, created a society frightened to speak up and halted /slowed its advance.

With the multitude of communications, I am **strongly opposed** to any **censorship**, bar the incitement to violence on person or property. It is important for the ability to have a robust discussion ergo Debate. In fact, our society functions on such. Within the Houses of Parliament across this nation, Free Debate is the norm. There is no suppression of voice [raised within the guidelines] which contradicts and argues against the Government.

This Debate also functions in our Courts of Law between the lawyers promoting opposing parties. Similarly the parties are protected against libel and slander whilst in the Courtrooms.

Where Governments [State or Church], in previous centuries, had suppressed discussion and publication of views, not in agreement with the official line, societal advance was slowed in matters of science and health. Where the Earth was considered the pivot for our universe, the earlier astronomers were unable to make the model fit the evidence. Discussions with peers, to change the model, was risking serious prosecution by Government, a possible death sentence. This delayed mankind's correct understanding of planetary motion.

Similarly the Flat Plane of the Earth Theory discouraged mariners to make extended voyages, this delayed the full exploration of the Planet's Oceans. Voices dissenting the Theory were opposed.

Also with Medical Science. The theories of blood circulation and other body systems were not available to alternative paths of thought. Medical science stagnated until brave individuals opposed the narrative, despite the threat of imprisonment or death penalty, experimented and circulated the new information.

