

Sydney.

New South Wales.

18<sup>th</sup> day August, 2023

A private man submission on the  
Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation)  
Bill 2023

The proposal to monitor and surveil information on any platform, but particularly moreso in the ever increasing digital platforms, is in itself an affront to the men and women of Australia.

The ACMA powers will strengthen and support the existing voluntary framework established by the Australian Code of Practice on Disinformation and Misinformation (the voluntary code), and will extend to non-signatories of the voluntary code.

A plethora of unlawful, immoral, unethical and unconstitutional issues are readily evident.

Why would the existing process and safeguards for authorising wiretap, surveillance, warrants of electronic communications be made redundant at the stroke of a pen in favour of providing widespread and broad powers to a non-elected public servant or private contractor(s) without any further overview. The simple reply is that the existing processes must be maintained and if anything strengthened to further limit the excessive government overreach.

Whom decides what is misinformation and, or, disinformation? The fact that this proposal allows someone [or something given the widespread use of artificial intelligence ] to classify content as misinformation or disinformation, or erroneous, or exaggerated, or understated, or overstated, or only partially true, or biased, or insulting, or any other classification for that matter, is downright dictatorial.

Whom, or what, decides ? The Bill sounds like another big stick weapon in the government arsenal to be used on the women and men.

Where does the Minister for Communications gain his moral or lawful approval to introduce such a draconian Bill ? The simple answer is that the Bill is neither morally correct to impose on the lives, thoughts and conversations of private men and women of this land. The Bill is not lawful in any way shape or form and is totally repugnant to the Australian Constitution and to Natural Law.

Regardless whether ACMA will have the power to request specific content or post removal from digital platform services the mere fact that the existing voluntary framework will be extended to non-signatories of the voluntary code is an affront of the highest magnitude.

No consent whatsoever is given to the introduction of this Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023. This Bill should be removed and should never be allowed to see the light of day.

Sincerely.

A private man.