

This proposed Orwellian legislation effectively establishes a government “Ministry of Truth” to decide what is real and what is false, and will punish on-line platforms if they allow unsanctioned material to be published.

This a grave threat to democracy and freedom of speech, because any opinion contrary to government narrative can be stifled and the holders of such opinions can be cancelled. Meanwhile the government and corporate media, who have been some of the major purveyors of falsehoods in recent times, will be exempted from this legislation.

In a democracy an unelected, unaccountable panel of bureaucrats or “fact checkers” should not be the final arbiters of what is true or false. This proposed legislation may be appropriate for Soviet Russia or North Korea, but has no place in Australia and should be thrown out.