

I am not impressed with the proposed establishment of what is effectively a Ministry of Truth.

What happens when spreading the truth is just as harmful (or more harmful) than spreading disinformation? Which of the following caused more “harm”? Disseminating the ‘truth’ about covid-19 or misinformation about covid-19? Which ‘fact’ destroyed the economy? Which ‘fact’ put people in a state of perpetual fear and panic? Which ‘fact’ destroyed jobs and livelihoods? Which of the two ‘facts’ gets ACMA’s approval to be disseminated?

In this climate of emerging science, is ‘truth’ today still ‘truth’ tomorrow? What about the person who is punished for telling tomorrow’s truth today? Is it ok to destroy their career for being ahead of their time? Australian workplaces were years behind me in deciding that staff should be provided with a smoke-free workplace. But I was pushed out of a job for wanting the smoke-free workplace now, not in several years’ time after my lungs had been destroyed by second-hand smoke.

Have we got the best ‘experts’ in place in ACMA and the digital platforms? Do these experts have intimate knowledge of every subject likely to come up on their platform, so that they can correctly decide the veracity of opinions expressed?

What about emerging topics? Are they equipped now with the relevant ‘facts’ about covid-24? Or will they be flying by the seat of their pants as each disaster, situation, topic, etc, emerges? Anthony Fauci certainly seemed to be flying by the seat of his pants as he struggled to make up his mind if masks were helpful during covid-19, let alone whether the vaccines were “safe and effective”. But Fauci was the resident expert.

What about the reverse situation where ‘truth’ is spoken today and then considered politically incorrect tomorrow? Will the records that ACMA requires digital platforms to keep be used against the speaker’s retrospectively? What guarantees can you offer of that?

This proposed legislation is too vague. I have no idea what we are signing ourselves up for next year, let alone 5 years from now. I don’t believe it is possible for you to reassure me that this legislation will be fairly and intelligently applied in coming years when we don’t even know what situations it will be applied to.

The world has had liars, snake-oil salesmen, con men, etc, since the dawn of time. We’re still all here despite their best efforts. I’ve been honing my liar detection skills for decades on mainstream media news stories, politicians’ promises and telemarketers. And so far, so good. I don’t want a questionable ‘authority’s’ help in manoeuvring my way through the lies. I’ll rely on my own brain, thank you very much.

I’d rather take my chances on the liars out there than authority figures who let their censorship powers get out of control. This wouldn’t be the first time I’ve had dealings with ACMA, and their responses to date have left me convinced that they can’t be trusted with the power already invested in them, let alone more power.

