

Misinformation and Disinformation proposed legislation

Over the past three years, I have become increasingly disenchanted with professional television news and government information. My preference is to engage with digital platforms, read information, comment on, and research further if inclined, (which I frequently do). My main problems with the proposed legislation are dot pointed below:

- who decides information that is false, misleading or deceptive?

META has already acknowledged in court that factcheck is opinion, and RMIT factlab are paid \$800 per fact check. Those who are performing the factchecking are incentivised to find certain information. I believe debate between credible sources for both sides is needed.

- A definition of what constitutes 'false, misleading or deceptive' information is also needed. This is an incredibly vague statement and could be misused.
- The draft legislation lists excluded content for misinformation from government, professional news sources, accredited education etc. Recent freedom of information sourced by Australian senators have shown government censorship during the pandemic to be inaccurate as to factual information. Indeed the government is currently politicizing the words 'disinformation and misinformation' so much so that they are almost a parody of their previous meaning. The exclusion and the 'parody' don't inspire confidence or trust. History has shown that both professional news sources and government can be purveyors of misinformation.

I don't believe ACMA's corporate vision to 'build consumer trust in the use of communications, content and services' will be earned through this legislation. Please respect my 'freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of 'my' choice'. UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Article 19 of which Australia is a signatory.