

I, Paul Topic oppose in the Australian Government introducing the proposed new laws to provide the independent regulator, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), with new powers to combat online misinformation and disinformation.

The intention of the proposed Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023 intention appears to be to create a frighteningly dystopian future for people of Australia. One only needs to look at the definition of "excluded content for misinformation purposes" to see that what will be created is a ministry of truth in which corruptible Government institutions and Professional news services will become the heads of state for our permitted beliefs, thoughts and ideas.

No individual or public body has the mental capacity to ascertain accurately what is or what is not misinformation or disinformation. For growth of thought and growth of life, freedom to speak one's own ideas and listen to others is essential in society.

The definitions of Harm are extremely loose and again, who gets to decide the threshold of doing harm using communicative words. I have already observed that my posts on Youtube are being censored when I write the word corrupt with Australian Government or Peter Dutton in the same comment. I perhaps have caused harm to Peter Dutton or the democratic process using those words. However by being censored and silenced, our society is being harmed as we the people have our right removed to call out corruption and injustice. The censorship of anything negative about covid vaccines was and still is extreme on Youtube. As a result harm has been done to many many thousands of people who were not given information on the harms and are now suffering severe vaccine side effects as society as a whole had no informed choice to say no to the dangerous drugs and decide for themselves. Harmful experimental vaccines did not line up with Government and Professional News propaganda.

So what is harm? Who is perceived to be getting harmed, and who will be harmed by censoring people's good thoughts and ideas that do not agree with a small elite group in ACMA, Government departments and Professional news services?

The operation of this proposed law would definitely infringe on the constitutional doctrine of freedom of political communication.

Whoever came up with the proposed Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023 needs to be closely looked at to see where their true intentions are and are they acting in the best interests of Australians or are they treasonously working for a foreign power. This proposed Bill must be discontinued.

Thank you.

Paul Topic