

SUBMISSION re
Communications Legislation Amendment
(Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023

To whom it may concern

The proposed legislation / amendments represent a blatant attempt by the federal government to introduce **censorship** of well-known social media outlets such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and others, under the disguise of “protecting the community from harm”. The bill would give the government huge power to impose massive fines on social media outlets if they refuse to act to remove posts which are deemed to be “misinformation” or “disinformation” in their content.

Whenever the word “censorship” is used, the overriding question then becomes: “*who or what is the ultimate authority that judges what contents should be censored?*” According to the proposed legislation, that authority would be the Australian Communications and Media Authority, **ACMA**.

We have just been through 3 Covid years where the medical establishment misled the Australian people, and our politicians who believed the lies they were told and consequently enforced scientifically inappropriate restrictions on all Australians, and attacked anyone who voiced an opposing view. For example:

1. Those who stated that Covid vaccines were not highly effective were attacked - but were subsequently proved to be correct.
2. Those who stated that Covid vaccines were not very safe were attacked – but were subsequently proved to be correct.
3. Those who said from February 2020 onwards that there were safe and inexpensive options available to both prevent and treat Covid were attacked – but were subsequently proved to be correct.

I could give another dozen examples, and in every case if a Government authority like the proposed ACMA were in charge of deciding what was misinformation and/or disinformation they would certainly have supported the Government line, and would have incorrectly censored true statements.

The potential for immense misuse of power is clear, especially when the Government in power blindly supports massive international organisations (in the case of Covid - the multinational pharmaceutical cartels) whose deliberate intention was/is to mislead for financial gain. This applies to Governments of all political hues.

Comments made by US President Harry Truman, some 73 years ago, appear to me to be as relevant and important as ever. The following quote is taken from Truman’s “Special Message” to Congress re the matter of the internal security of the United States (https://www.realclearpublicaffairs.com/articles/2023/05/12/great_american_stories_trumans_quote_899217.html):

“Laws forbidding dissent do not prevent subversive activities; they merely drive them into more secret and more dangerous channels..... Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear. We must, therefore, be on our guard against extremists who urge us to adopt police state measures.”

And this ACMA legislation, as confusing and as devious as it is, is one small step away from a police state measure.

The potential dangers of free speech pale into insignificance compared to the potential dangers contained in this legislation which can in a deliberate way prevent truth spoken by independent persons being heard – as happened during Covid - and is still happening.

This legislation is not needed. It should be simply rejected by all who support the Westminster system of democratic Government. And for those whose don't support our form of democracy, it should still be rejected because it provides a clear opportunity for powerful vested interests to subvert truth telling on a national scale. I am a proud Australian - and this legislation is simply un-Australian.

Dr Isaac Golden 26/7/23

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]