

Dear Misinformation Bill Review,

I am deeply concerned about the government's proposed 'Misinformation Bill'. We all know the internet can be used to promote all kinds of information, some of which is untrue. But the answer is not to make the government the arbiter of truth and to censor those it disagrees with. The solution is open and honest debate. The exposure of bad ideas with an open critique of those bad ideas is the only way the truth can prevail.

There have been several instances recently where what has been alleged to be true by the government and press has in fact turned out not to be so, and the truth was suppressed because it was in conflict with what the government was saying.

Australia has always had a strong stance on human rights, including the right to freedom of speech and conscience. Our nation had it right all along. The proposed bill will not progress Australia but regress it.

This bill represents complete government overreach. More than that, it is a path to authoritarianism. Some governments today willingly control what is allowed and not allowed to be said. When loyalty to the government and its version of truth is the supreme virtue, we cross the threshold into totalitarianism. That is not the Australia we want to pass on to the next generation.

I strongly reject this proposal.

