

Dear Misinformation Bill Review,

I am deeply concerned about the government's proposed 'Misinformation Bill'.

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. Nor is it the Australia that so many of my close relations fought for in two World Wars, many slain and buried far overseas.

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.

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.

I strongly reject this proposal.

