

Dear Misinformation Bill Review,

I strongly reject this proposed legislation. The draft exposure says it is about keeping Australians safe from “harm”. But the government will cause harm by silencing Australians! The Commonwealth is responsible for protecting the rights of the individual, not suppressing them.

The recent history of the government attempting to define what is “misinformation” should cause grave concerns about this bill. During the pandemic, the Australian public was told that Covid-19 vaccines would prevent people from getting and spreading the virus. Those who questioned and critiqued this were censored on social media. Yet it soon became obvious to everyone the government was wrong, and the “misinformation” was right! Nearly every Australian was vaccinated for Covid-19, yet the virus kept spreading until almost every Australian caught it!

The rationale for censorship on this issue might have been well-intentioned. But time proved the censor-happy bureaucrats wrong.

This one example shows why giving the government even more power is a recipe for disaster.

I really don't understand how the government can allow one agency to be subjected to appeals from activists to change and administer what is law. This means that laws can be determined by who screams the loudest for change, without any checks and balances of what the ramifications are to every Australian, not just some. If this is allowed to pass, then you are giving this agency more power than parliament and the judicial system to make changes to communication and other areas. This also means that you are wanting to cancel free speech and subdue positive changes that are the result of free speech.

This bill must be thrown out.

