

Thankyou for the opportunity to express my views before the right is taken away.....

ACMA FREEDOM OF SPEECH SUBMISSION. 5/8/23.

Freedom of speech underpins the whole concept of what it is to live in a democracy; to have equal justice under the law. It is fundamental in the process of educating our children, our citizenry and Media. Our Media has a responsibility to do thorough and unbiased investigative journalism. We do not see this any more. This bothers me greatly. Political discourse is vitriolic and divisive. Who would want any politician to determine what is misinformation? Carefully crafted lies have lead us into wars as we now know just as one example.

Freedom of speech is fundamental also to scientific process, freedom of religion and basic human rights. Without freedom of speech we cannot have a healthy, mature, tolerant, discerning population. Honesty is compromised when one cannot question and openly debate.

I believe that much can be compromised when a Governmental body has the sole authority to determine what is misinformation and disinformation. History has shown us this. Has it taught us this? It could come at great cost to learn this lesson all over yet again.

We should not be so eager to censor, defame and criminalise speech. To want to control what people`s speech and what people think. If we have an *educated* and a robust population, every persons views can be expressed, explored proved right or wrong with an eloquent ability to defend positions or admit a need to rethink, re examine based on evidence , logic for instance.

To implement such legislation I fear, leads to increased surveillance and to a dystopian future.

I say: "NO THANKS!"

I say: "YES" to honesty, respect, tolerance, freedom, liberty, ability to compromise, co operate, demand peace and fidelity to the truth and the constitution.

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