

I believe this Bill could begin the erosion of democratic rights and freedoms we have built and enjoyed over time.

We have always had information that could be considered questionable, but it has always been in the domain of the individual to assess and act accordingly. It's never been for a government body to decide and dictate what is misinformation and disinformation.

As a rational person, I can assess information that can be correct or incorrect, that would account for the majority of the Australian population, so again why is this proposed legislation necessary.

We are all too aware of countries that have less than democratic principles who dictate the flow of information, so when a government starts going down that path, what are the parameters and who enforces them.

There's a reason the American founding fathers enshrined freedom of speech in the US Constitution. It's the same reason that Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which Australia in 1948 helped to draft, states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

If we are to learn anything from history, that is many people have suffered and died for the principle of democratic rights and freedoms we take for granted today, just as my parents fought and suffered in the second world war for those very same principles.

Thanks for reading.