

Submission

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SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNICATIONS AND ART. Communications Legislation Amendment (Combating Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023

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There are a number of reasons why I object to this bill.

1. This bill is a direct infringement on Freedom of Speech. Freedom of Speech is a hallmark of a democratic society. Any curtailment of this freedom will inevitably lead to tyranny. Freedom of speech allows free discourse of ideas which leads to the best ideas rising to the top. Without freedom of speech there is stifling of the progress of ever evolving science and new ideas will not be encouraged. Thinking outside the box will be a thing of the past. People will be afraid to come forward with their 'cutting edge ideas' for fear they will be construed as perpetrators of disinformation or misinformation, especially if it is in opposition to the current dogma of 'settled science'.

Intellectual Freedom follows on from this concept. I believe people need access to a wide range of information, ideas and opinions. There is no need for the government "to play God" on this issue. Censorship is far more damaging than misinformation and disinformation. With access to a full range of ideas and information, be it right or wrong, people are then free to make up their own minds about an issue, which is how it should be in a democratic society. When governments "play God" and decide what you are allowed to know and what you are not allowed to know, it smacks of conspiracy to fraud. There is no transparency. This is the domain of tyrants and the method all totalitarian governments work from. This is un-Australian.

1. Conflicts of Interest: Universities, Hospitals, large Health Institutions and Advisory Agencies are all subject to financial influence with regards to funding, dependant on their stance on certain issues. Pharmaceutical Companies have mega wealth and can withhold grants for research or donations to these bodies and indeed donations to campaign funding for politicians, if the "right narrative" is not followed according to the pharma company. This is how conflicts of interest permeate bureaucracies. Financial coercion can 'pervert the Truth' so that the financial interests of large companies are put in advance of the welfare interests of the Australian people.
2. Professional Ethics: It is most important that Medical professionals and alternative health care practitioners can treat their patients in an holistic and honest manner, upholding the mantra "to do no harm". During Covid, APHRA set a ruling that no doctor or medical professional could say anything negative about the 'vaccines' to the patients, or anything that might deter them from taking the vaccines. This is not following the principles of Informed Consent. It is widely accepted that any and all pharmaceuticals can have side effects. It is why there is a pamphlet of information covering this in the packaging of such products. It is against medical ethics to inject a medical product (a medical procedure as such), without giving true informed consent, informing the patient of the possible side effects of the product and of any alternative procedures or treatments instead of the product. This is outlined in the Childhood Immunisation Schedule as part of the informed consent procedure required for all vaccines given. APHRA threatened every medical professional with loss of license and inability to practice, if they did not follow APHRA mandate, rather than the ethical approach of full informed consent. It put the Medical practitioners in an impossible position. This is precisely my concern with this Bill. Our Medical advisory bodies have fallen foul of the law and buckled under the temptation of financial coercion and incentives. The policies they adopted were dangerous to the health of many Australians and the Vaccine program itself, was one of misinformation and disinformation. Important information was censored.

3. Costly bureaucracy and Government over-reach: I see this bill as allowing yet another level of bureaucracy, which is a huge cost to the Australian taxpayer. The funding for this could be put to better use by improving staffing levels at regional hospitals and much needed maintenance of regional hospitals, aged care facilities, police stations and the like. The bill is another example of government over reach: the increasing interference in people's lives from government.
4. Compliance costs to small business: Yet another report to write to a government department to justify that department's existence. It takes away from the service the business is trying to provide and is costly in staff time and resources. It is an added burden to business with an ever present financial threat in terms of what a business can say about the service it provides, especially if that service is an alternative to mainstream medicine or to big pharma.

I am confident the vast majority of Australians will agree with me, that "Less government red tape" is what the Australian people want.

It is for the above reasons, that I object to the proposed Disinformation Bill. I pray common sense and the principles of democracy and decency prevail and that the Bill is dismissed as it should be.

GR & J Buller

