

# Submission regarding proposed ACMA powers to combat misinformation and disinformation

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To whom it may concern,

It deeply concerns me that the Government seeks to control the Australian people, through social media companies or any other way, by limiting what they can say. It is not the role of government to say what people can or cannot say, what they believe or what they do. Yes, certain laws are good and just, such as the law which says we shall not murder each other. The role of government is to ensure the people get a 'fair go'. Governments are intended to provide emergency help for those who need it, to provide and facilitate infrastructure that everybody uses, such as roads, piped, drinkable water, dental care and medical help. The individual, the citizen, the natural person can decide for themselves what is true. The government is not the owner of truth and therefore how can it say to the people, "this is truth" or "this is false"?

This government seems to think that Australians cannot (or perhaps should not) think for themselves. How foolish! Because of over-regulation, Australia lacks innovation, enterprise, ingenuity. Because of over-regulation and governments forcefully telling us what to think, what to do and where to go or not go, we have division among us! We have lost the ability to respect others for thinking differently. We have lost the ability to robustly discuss and debate issues. This proposed legislation seeks to exacerbate this problem!

This proposed bill exempts the government - a collective of Australian citizens, when you break it down - from the law that the government seeks to impose on the other citizens! This is not fair, and it is not reliable. Again, the government is not the owner of truth.

During the past three, nearly four, years, the Federal and State governments have told the people that the Covid-19 vaccines, for example, are 'safe', and yet I know dozens of people who have had the vaccines and have become ill, have constant headaches, who have developed myocarditis and other health issues since taking the vaccine. The government also assured us that the vaccine would stop the illness spreading, but how many people have still caught Covid-19?! The Queensland Premier said the virus would "hunt" people down if they were not vaccinated. I have not had any of the Covid-19 'vaccines' and I have not caught Covid, and therefore I have not been "hunted" down and the Premier's statement is demonstrably false!! How can we trust any government to know and tell the truth when we have so many examples of governments here giving false information?! The answer is, we cannot and do not trust the government.

Please, start listening to the Australian people. We pay the taxes that are asked of us. We work hard in our own parts of the country, to contribute to society and the world. Please, get back to providing the essential infrastructure we need to live and prosper and stay out of 'truth keeping', ideological debates and other social issues.

I wholly object to this proposed legislation and ask that the parliament abandon the bill entirely.

Yours respectfully,

Mrs Anita Watapuluwa  
[REDACTED]

P.S The email address provided on the website <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say/new-acma-powers-combat-misinformation-and-disinformation> is - according to Gmail - an 'unrecognised' email address when I add it to the To field.

The website states:

We want to hear your feedback on the proposed legislation. It's easy to have your say—simply read the exposure draft Bill and the supporting documents and:

- Make a submission below by clicking the 'Have your say' button.
- Email us in writing, via video, or by sending an audio recording to [REDACTED]

Submissions will be published after 20 August 2023. They will be uploaded in tranches.

I have copied this email address directly. I am therefore sending this to the customer line directly at the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts website. Please ensure this email reaches the correct team to be considered as a submission to the draft bill.