

John Bělík



20th August, 2023

Re: New ACMA powers to combat misinformation and disinformation (the Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023)

Submission

I oppose any form of censorship so I do not support this legislation for the following reasons:

- Australia already has laws in place to protect people from hate speech or threats.
- This Bill would be an attack on free speech and the contest of ideas.
- It would be undemocratic and make our government more like other totalitarian governments around the world.
- It would be very Orwellian in that there would be a body that determines if information is true or not (The Ministry of Truth) and not individuals deciding for themselves what is truth.
- The answer to controversies scientific, political, or otherwise is not more censorship but, about more debate.
- A body such as this would be biased and ideologies would influence any determinations of what is true or false.
- Alternative views & opinions could be easily suppressed.
- Discussions should not be about which 'opinions' are right.
- It would create division in society with hate crimes against those of opposing ideas more likely.

In conclusion, people should be free to view the evidence for both sides of an argument and make their own informed choices whether right or wrong. It would be better to spread the decision-making process to every individual to minimize errors. Everyone in a free society should be allowed to make their own decisions about what is correct information and what is not, rather than one governmental body making the decisions. This bill should therefore be totally repealed.

Kind regards
John Bělík