

To the Dep't of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications & the Arts
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Submission on the Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023

I object to the Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023. There is no need for it. Scrap it entirely.

(1) My background - I have good knowledge of political processes, because among my 53 years of mainly Engineering work, I have been a staffer to six MPs (3 in Canberra, 3 in NSW) including a Minister. I am concerned Australia's governance processes are declining.

(2) **There is NO NEED to do anything!** The examples of serious harms in my Appendix below (which comprises quotes from the official Fact Sheet) can all be dealt with by existing legislation, whether it is the Commonwealth or State Crimes Acts or other laws. And I question the adjective "*serious*". These examples are in my view pathetic, and do not comprise a justification for what I argue below is an excessive and tyrannical proposal.

(3) "*Disrupted public health responses*" is a major reason in the Fact Sheet (below). But the truth is that federal and state governments proceeded ruthlessly with public health responses and were not disrupted by appeals to truth, commonsense or logic, and they proceeded to impose tyrannical, ineffective and damaging things like lockdowns and mandates, which contravened our fundamental human rights, e.g. in Magna Carta 1215. It was the governments who were guilty of lies, propaganda, misinformation and disinformation. Rather than controls on citizens, we need a parliamentary inquiry into the government's bad handling of the COVID19 situation (a recent Motion to this effect stalled on an equality of aye and noe votes – a future Motion will pass).

(4) **Attack on Human Rights** – this proposed Bill is the sort of thing that happens in North Korea or happened in Stalin's USSR.

The proposed bill undermines **freedom of speech** by attempting to 'balance' that fundamental right with the notion of combating so-called 'misinformation'. Fundamental rights cannot be balanced against anything – they are to be regarded as foundational.

(5) Difficulty in defining "**misinformation**"

Determining what qualifies as so-called 'misinformation' is **subjective** and entrusting a government agency to decide truthfulness raises concerns, of the type that George Orwell wrote about in his book 1984 where the Ministry of Truth symbolized the Party's belief that power is the most important commodity that they have access to. And the power over what people believe (which includes power over the past) is part of that equation.

(6) Censorship - - The bill grants excessive control to authorities and will lead to censorship. If this Bill passes, we could re-name the Australian Communications and Media Authority as the "Ministry of Truth"

Yours faithfully,

Mr Alexander Cornell Stewart, on the Electoral Roll at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 20 August 2023 [REDACTED]

APPENDIX 1 - Background to this Bill – Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023—Fact sheet

“false, misleading and deceptive information online has resulted in a multitude of harms from disrupted public health responses to foreign interference in elections and the undermining of democratic institutions.” ...

“The types of ‘harms’ captured, and some examples of what could be serious harm, are below:

Type of harm	Example of serious harm
Hatred against a group in Australian society on the basis of ethnicity, nationality, race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion or physical or mental disability	Misinformation about a group of Australians inciting other persons to commit hate crimes against that group
Disruption of public order or society in Australia	Misinformation that encouraged or caused people to vandalise critical ... infrastructure
Harm to the integrity of Australian democratic processes or of Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government institutions	Misinformation undermining the impartiality of an Australian electoral management body ahead of an election or a referendum
Harm to the health of Australians	Misinformation that caused people to ingest or inject bleach products to treat a viral infection
Harm to the Australian environment	Misinformation about water saving measures during a prolonged drought period ...
Economic or financial harm to Australians, the Australian economy or a sector of the Australian economy	Disinformation by a foreign actor targeting local producers in favour of imported goods”

APPENDIX 2 – Background information about COVID mishandling

My [REDACTED] is one of the world’s top experts in DNA and mRNA, having published over 100 papers in DNA and mRNA over the last 40 years in Germany. He was for a while head of EMBL the European Molecular Biology Laboratory. He told me 3 years ago that the mRNA vaccines would not work, but that the technology has great potential in diabetes, cancer etc but ONLY AFTER another five years of research.

I could provide many articles that expose that what the federal and state governments did re COVID was misinformation/ disinformation/ lies/ propaganda but here are a few :

- 1 July 2023 Journal of Medical and Clinical Research, by Dr Wilson Sy, “Simpson’s paradox in the correlations between excess mortality and covid-19 injections: a case study of iatrogenic pandemic for elderly Australians”. It has a good list of 24 references.
- <https://dailysceptic.org/2022/06/22/covid-vaccines-more-likely-to-put-you-in-hospital-than-keep-you-out-bmj-editors-analysis-of-pfizer-and-moderna-trial-data-finds/>
- Hansard of 25 October 2022 – speech by Senator M Roberts includes that a Pfizer leader admitted two weeks ago to the European Parliament that “the Prizer vaccine injection was never tested to see if it would prevent transmission”
- 3 August 2023 the Senate Education & Employment Committee held a hearing in which Senator Gerard Rennick et al obtained shocking information from the TGA, Moderna and from Pfizer’s Australian medical director, Dr Krishan Thiru.