

My Submission on the Terrible Misinformation Bill

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Attachments: Unnamed Attachment (68 bytes)

Dear Misinformation Bill Review,

For many years I lived overseas in a country where freedom of speech is somewhat restricted especially in the public arena. People are afraid to speak out on issues that are really need to be brought into the open. Many people from this and other "closed" countries migrate to Australia because of the freedom of speech and expression that Australia has been known for.

I am deeply concerned about the government's proposed 'Misinformation Bill'. We all know the internet can be used to promote all kinds of information, some of which is untrue. But the answer is not to make the government the arbiter of truth and to censor those it disagrees with. The solution is open and honest debate. The exposure of bad ideas with an open critique of those bad ideas is the only way the truth can prevail.

Australia has always had a strong stance on human rights, including the right to freedom of speech and conscience. Our nation had it right all along. The proposed bill will not progress Australia but regress it.

This bill represents complete government overreach. More than that, it is a path to authoritarianism. Some governments today willingly control what is allowed and not allowed to be said. When loyalty to the government and its version of truth is the supreme virtue, we cross the threshold into totalitarianism. That is not the Australia we want to pass on to the next generation.

I am concerned that my grandchildren grow with the freedom to find information that is free, not just the government narrative and to be able to express that information freely.

I strongly reject this proposal.

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