

Combating Misinformation and Disinformation Bill

From: [REDACTED]
To: Information Integrity <information.integrity@infrastructure.gov.au>
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Dear Sir / Madam,

I am greatly concerned about the *Combating Misinformation and Disinformation Bill* proposed by the Albanese Government.

This bill proposes powers that will threaten freedom of speech and democratic rights in Australia in the following ways:

1. the Bill grants the government the authority to define “truth”, allowing it to control and manipulate the flow of information;
2. the Bill empowers the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to determine what qualifies as “misinformation” or “disinformation”. This subjective definition leaves room for abuse of power, and suppresses diverse opinions and public debate;
3. the Bill excludes the government and mainstream media from its censorship regime, creating a double standard and eroding the principles of fairness and equality;
4. the Bill effectively enables tech companies to become tools of government censorship, stifling free speech and undermining the open exchange of ideas; and
5. the Bill paves the way for ideological conformity, suppressing dissenting voices and hindering independent thought. This goes against the principles of a democratic society that thrives on diversity and freedom of expression.

I urge the government to withdraw this Bill and uphold the fundamental rights of every Australian citizen to freedom of opinion and expression provided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

My family and I vehemently oppose this democracy-cancelling Bill and will be most disappointed if the Government pursues it.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED]