

# Misinformation and Disinformation Bill 2023 Must Be Rejected

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Dear Misinformation Bill Review,

We the people of Australia did not vote the ALP Government in so that it can chip away our freedoms and liberties that we all currently enjoy. We did not vote for Government control over our right to gain information from sources of our own choosing, or to voice our concerns (amongst other things) about affairs of this country and indeed affairs of other countries worldwide. In a democracy we have the right to read, see or listen to all sides of any argument put, and to then make up our own minds as to what is fact, truth, fiction, or even misinformation or disinformation.

Freedom of speech is a fundamental right of every Australian. This proposed "misinformation" law is an attack on our basic human rights by a government that is supposed to uphold those rights, not stifle them.

The government is attempting to place upon itself an impossible burden of objectivity. No government body has the wisdom or ability to sort out what is true and what isn't. We've never had so much information available at our fingertips in all of human history. The amount of information that can be accessed online is incredibly vast. What group of bureaucrats could possibly discern truth from falsehood on every subject?

The bill's stated aim is to keep Australians from "harm". Preventing harm is a good thing. The problem is that the proposed law will ultimately do great harm itself. One example is the recent pandemic and the question of where COVID-19 originated. The official line was that it came from nature and that the lab origin was "misinformation" that could "harm" our relationship with China.

Now we have learned that the virus likely did come from the Wuhan lab. What was once called "misinformation" is now quite possibly the truth! The question of COVID-19's origin is vital so that we can avoid a repeat scenario. Censoring truthful reporting about the lab leak theory will itself cause "harm" by preventing us from learning from our mistakes.

With this one example, we can see how the proposed "misinformation" law will increase "harm" even as it seeks to reduce it.

The bill is misguided and must be rejected.

