

Submission on Disinformation Bill

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To: Information Integrity <information.integrity@infrastructure.gov.au>
Date: Sun, 20 Aug 2023 22:06:32 +1000
Attachments: PCA-cth-ACMA-mis-dis-info-A-202308202.pdf (826.18 kB)

Attached is a previous submission by another party.

I agree with this submission.

I will also add, "1984 is a piece of fiction, not a rulebook for governments who already step over OUR constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia."

I want my personal information redacted.

David Appleby
[REDACTED]



Politically Concerned Australians[©]

Type: Inquiry

Area: Politics – CTHGOV portfolio *infrastructure-transport-regional-development-communications-and-arts*

Topic: Government censorship of Australians

Subject: Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023

Ref.: PCA-politics-GOVCTH-20230820-ACMAmisdisinfo

PART 1 – EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

What?

The Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023 proposed by the Minister for Communications the Hon. Michelle Rowland MP.

How? (methodology)

Review of the Guidance Note 2023

https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/communications-legislation-amendment-combatting-misinformation-and-disinformation-bill-2023-guidance-note-june2023_2.pdf

Why?

To provide material for Australians considering making a submission on the proposed legislation to Information.Integrity@infrastructure.gov.au.

PART 2 – RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the *Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023* in it's current form be abandoned all together based on review and resultant **PART 3 – CONCERNS**.
 - a. This serves to ensure ordinary Australians continue to have the ability to share and discuss amongst each other important issues of the day including publishing the results and conclusions of their own research for wide distribution on social media.
2. That the *Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023* be repurposed to expand ACMA powers over regulated/licenced corporate and Government owned media to ensure misinformation is NOT disseminated to prevent future catastrophes such as the recent **COVID Intervention** that caused widespread serious harm affecting all ordinary Australians in one way or another.

1 **PART 3 – CONCERNS**

2 **1. Government assuming role of Guardian over the majority of adult Australians**

- 3 a) Forcing social media technology companies to remove content under threat of penalties
4 is to censor information otherwise available to Australians.
- 5 b) Denying access to content implies a majority of adult Australians do not have the
6 capacity to determine information validity in accordance with advice provided by the e-
7 Safety commissioner (refer Source 1) to make rational decisions.

Resource 1 – Extract CTHGOV

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/fake-news-and-misinformation>

How can I tell if information is true?

Look out for content that seems very one-sided.

Ask yourself these questions:

Is it from a trustworthy source, known for being honest about information?

Does the headline match the content?

Are different views included, to give the content balance?

Do the quotes make sense and match the rest of the story, or do they seem to be missing the wider context?

Does the content seem to be unbelievable or 'too good to be true'?

Is there enough evidence and reasoning in the story to justify the claims or conclusion?

- 8 c) Government makes policy and law with the implied consent of the majority in our
9 representative democratic system. Australians fund through escalating public debt
10 multiple Government departments and agencies with budgets totalling in the \$billions
11 including but not limited to ASIO, AFP and Homeland Security as well as State/Territory
12 Police that have more than adequate resources to monitor the miniscule number of
13 Australians unable to assess information reasonably that may lead to an act causing
14 *serious harm*. Constant surveillance, search and seize powers as well as indefinite
15 detention without trial are in place ready to be conducted against Australians.
- 16 d) The NSW Trustee and Guardian make clear when guardianship is justified.

Resource 2 – Extract NSWGOV

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/fake-news-and-misinformation>

If a person's decision-making ability is impaired due to disability, age, mental illness or injury they may need to have a guardian appointed to make healthcare, lifestyle and medical decisions on their behalf

- 17 e) If Australians as a population are assumed unable to assess uncensored content in
18 making lifestyle decisions, how can they be trusted to vote for competent politicians?
- 19 f) **SUMMARY STATEMENT 1 – There is no imperative for the Government to intervene in**
20 **the ability of the majority of Australians to make informed decisions by censoring**
21 **information in effect acting as a Guardian on the assumption of mentally**
22 **compromising conditions (illness, injury etc).**

1 **2. Zero justification for Government intervention in public debate and private**
2 **discussions to address purported risks of ‘harm’**

3 a) Harm to the integrity of democratic processes – Zero justification:

Resource 3a – Extract CTHGOV Guidance Note: Bill justification

https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/communications-legislation-amendment-combatting-misinformation-and-disinformation-bill-2023-guidance-note-june2023_2.pdf

Problem:

Harm to the integrity of Australian democratic processes or of Commonwealth, State, Territory or local government institutions

Harm:

Misinformation undermining the impartiality of an Australian electoral management body ahead of an election or a referendum

- 4 ○ The impartiality of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has not been a
- 5 consideration in 123 years since Federation,
- 6 ○ It is unfathomable to foresee impartiality becoming an issue should the AEC maintain
- 7 the historical levels of dedication and professionalism unless;
- 8 ▪ **the AEC dramatically alters processes permitted for expediency under recent**
- 9 **legislative changes to scrutineering, emergency powers afforded the**
- 10 **Commissioner and questionable provisions in regards to mail in ballots**
- 11 **(names need not be correct).**
- 12 • **In which case the public reporting on instances of observable lax**
- 13 **performance would not qualify as ‘misinformation’.**

14 b) Harm to public order or Australian society – Zero justification:

Resource 3b – Extract CTHGOV Guidance Note: Bill justification

Problem:

Disruption of public order or society in Australia

Harm:

Misinformation that encouraged or caused people to vandalise critical communications infrastructure

- 15 ○ There is no demonstrable nexus between disruption of public order or Australian
- 16 society and vandalism of critical infrastructure,
- 17 ○ Vandalising public or private infrastructure is a prosecutable criminal act with
- 18 punishments that already act as deterrent,
- 19 ○ It is inconceivable to foresee firstly for what purpose would a person concoct
- 20 misinformation and secondly for another to vandalise critical infrastructure with the
- 21 intention to disrupt Australian society.
- 22 ○ Vandalism and destruction of Government infrastructure is a crime under robust
- 23 terrorism laws through which numerous generously funded Government agencies
- 24 constantly conduct surveillance and monitoring of the Australian people thus
- 25 essentially negating the threat.

1 c) Harm to public health – Zero justification:

Resource 3c – Extract CTHGOV Guidance Note: Bill justification

Problem:

Harm to the health of Australians

Harm:

Misinformation that caused people to ingest or inject bleach products to treat a viral infection.

- 2 ○ There are almost no words to address the absurdity of this justification except to
3 state it is not the responsibility of Government to impose draconian restrictions on
4 the entire Australian population to protect a handful of idiots from themselves,
5 ○ If this did occur without manipulation the numbers would have to be less than 10
6 which is entirely negligible out of a population in excess of 26 million.
7 ○ It is noteworthy whole of Government **COVID Intervention** has coincided with an
8 increase in excess deaths of over 10% (2022) and Australians dying and thousands
9 damaged, some permanently, by injection of as yet not fully TGA approved
10 experimental pharmaceutical products. Ironically the intervention imposed through
11 hyperventilating Government officials, politicians and regulated corporate / GOV
12 owned media presenters threatening Australians with job losses and crushing social
13 restrictions until injected that given COVID symptoms were nothing more than
14 seasonal influenza with mortality past life expectancy it could reasonably argued the
15 marketing campaign itself constituted 3 years of unending misinformation.

16 **d)** Remaining harms of 'hate incitement', irresponsible water usage and questionable trade
17 practices are all covered by existing laws energetically pursued by well-funded
18 Government departments and agencies. – Zero justification.

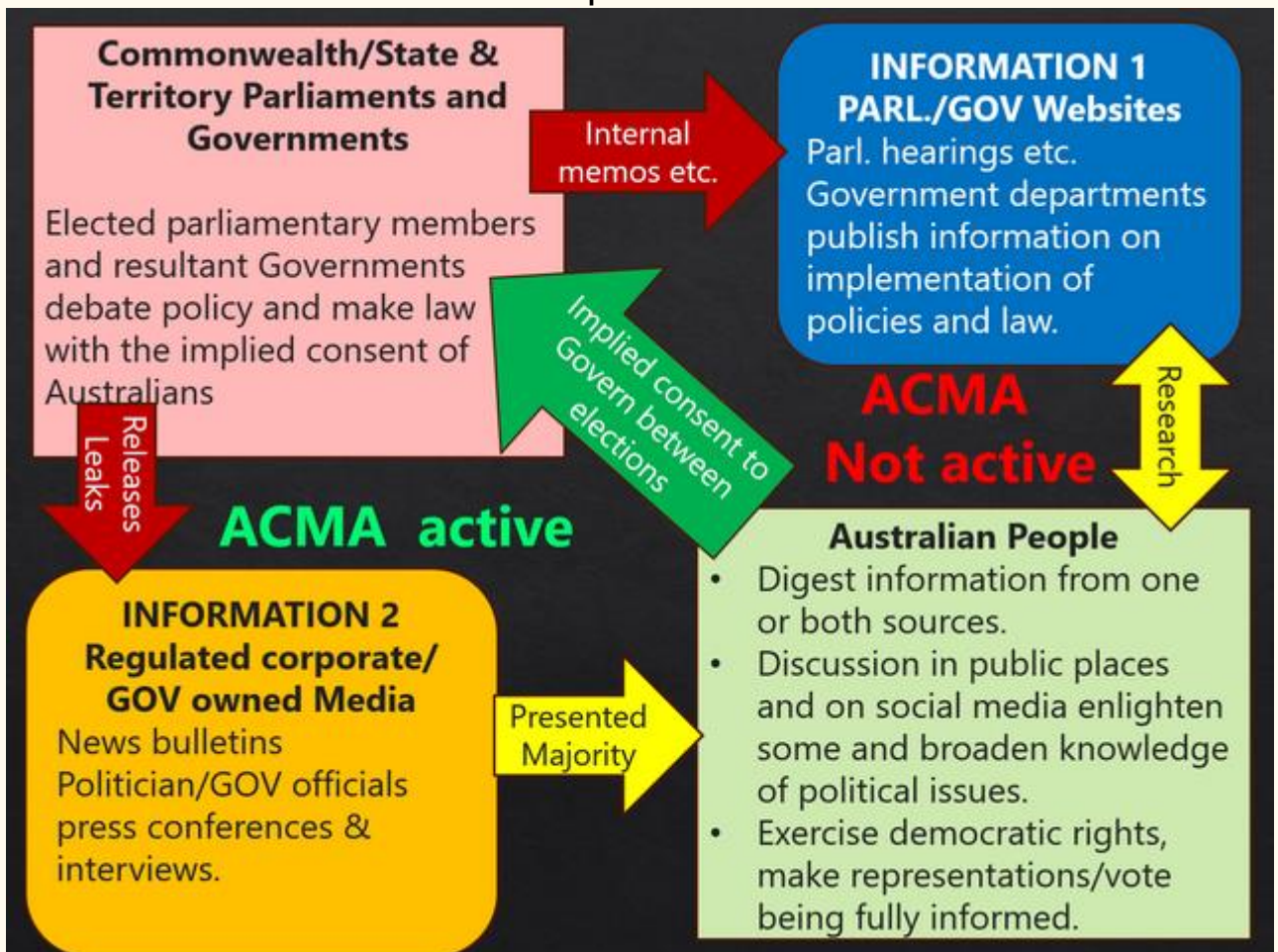
19 e) SUMMARY STATEMENT 2 – Examination of the justifications for this Bill yielded zero
20 imperatives with the flimsiness and lack of anything credible pointing to ulterior as yet
21 undisclosed motives by Government.

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1 **3. It is not ACMA's role to intervene in debate and discussion between Australians that**
2 **does not contravene existing laws through general censorship.**

- 3 a) The structure in place to facilitate Australia's representative democratic model is that
4 Government relies on implied consent (there is no express consent as per direct
5 democratic models) maintained by keeping Australians informed through Government
6 websites and regulated corporate / GOV owned media. Refer Graphic 1.
- 7 b) Australians in our free society openly discuss and debate important issues affecting
8 them, including Government policy and law, in public places (bars, clubs etc) and on
9 social media. Additionally on social media, Australians privately communicate with family
10 members and close friends.
- 11 c) SUMMARY STATEMENT 3 – ACMA is a regulatory body primarily focused on
12 regulating corporate media through a licensing system to maintain standards and
13 adherence to codes and is NOT a suitable agency to censor legitimate discussion
14 already policed for security risks by existing well-resourced Government enforcement
15 agencies.

16 Graphic 1



1 **4. Exemptions would permit the continued rampant dissemination of misinformation**
2 **and disinformation by Government in collusion with GOV owned and ACMA regulated**
3 **corporate media, hereafter referred to as 'GOV coordinated media', equivalent to the**
4 **effort during the COVID Emergency period (18 March 2020 – 17 April 2022) that has**
5 **been proven beyond reasonable doubt to have caused long term harm to the health**
6 **and wealth of ordinary Australians.**

7 a) The greatest peacetime catastrophe to cause harm to Australians was **COVID**
8 **Intervention** imposed through a Government and **GOV coordinated media** marketing
9 campaign that clearly met the meaning of 'misinformation' and 'disinformation'.

- 10 • 'deceptive' is the most apt descriptor for **COVID** era information dissemination.
- 11 • Central to the initial stage of the deceit was politicians, Government officials and
12 Government appointees/contractors speaking hysterically in press conferences and
13 interviews in collusion with an unquestioning **GOV coordinated media** of a deadly
14 pandemic on now highly discredited modelling **contrary** to evidence based
15 information published on Government websites and in obscure health
16 documentation about the actual benign effects of the Sars-COV-2 virus. Symptoms of
17 contracting the Sars-COV-2 virus were published by Government alongside those of
18 seasonal cold and flu and with mortality statistics confirming the average age of
19 death fluctuated in the 80's above life expectancy rendering widespread deaths
20 impossible. A majority of Australians busy with work and family rely on **GOV**
21 **coordinated media** rather than conducting their own research hence gave implied
22 consent for the devastating **COVID Intervention** measures largely unaware of the
23 factual material published obscurely by Government.
- 24 • The second stage of the deceit involved continued omission of the actual effects of
25 the Sars-COV-2 virus as well as a cessation of the deceitful hysterical discussion on
26 the discredited modelling (April 2020). Discussion moved to implying there remained
27 an emergency pandemic by stating the injection into the vast majority of Australians
28 experimental pharmaceutical products not fully approved by the TGA was required
29 NOT to remedy seasonal cold and flu symptoms and prevent deaths of the already
30 frail elderly but to have the brutal **COVID Intervention** measures lifted. Refer
31 Resource 4

Resource 4 – Extract CTHGOV National Plan (COVID)

<https://www.australia.gov.au/national-plan>

70% fully vaccinated

Measures may include:


- Minimise cases in the community through ongoing low-level restrictions
- Lockdowns less likely but possible
- Ease restrictions on vaccinated residents (TBD)
- Restore inbound passenger caps at previous levels for unvaccinated returning travellers and larger caps for vaccinated returning travellers
- Introduce new reduced quarantine arrangements for vaccinated residents.

- An advertisement televised on **GOV coordinated media** illegal at time of airing (the TGA introduced advertising exemptions a few days later) had well known media entertainment personalities clearly stating paraphrased "this is our shot to ... keep our borders open / explore the world again / to keep live music alive / to keep our businesses open etc. Refer Graphic 2

Graphic 3





- b) **Graphic 4** – Government published symptoms and average age of death more than 12 months into the COVID Emergency.



Australian Government

BE COVIDSAFE

COVID-19: Identifying the Symptoms

Symptoms	COVID-19	Cold	Flu	Allergies*
	Symptoms range from mild to severe	Gradual onset of symptoms	Abrupt onset of symptoms	May be abrupt or gradual onset of symptoms
Fever 	Common	Rare	Common	No
Cough 	Common	Common	Common	Common (asthma)

Description:

As at 3pm on 07 July 2021, a total of 30,861 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Australia, including 910 deaths, and approximately 485 active cases.

- Over the past week, there have been an average of 36 new cases reported each day. Of the newly reported cases, the majority have been from New South Wales.
- COVID-19 cases were reported across all ages:
 - The median age of all cases is 37 years (range: 0 to 106 years).
 - The median age of deaths is 86 years (range: 27 to 106 years).

1 c) SUMMARY STATEMENT 4 – Potential censorship of Australians who research and
2 publish factual Government information and exempting Government and GOV
3 coordinated media with a proven history of providing misinformation would facilitate
4 endless future COVID Intervention type measures for any purpose with *serious harm*,
5 a key element in the meaning of misinformation, the result for ordinary Australians.

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1 **PART 4 – FINAL STATEMENT**

2 The *serious harm* to ordinary Australians caused by misinformation that facilitated the **COVID**
3 **Intervention** by Government in collusion with corporate and GOV owned media cannot be
4 understated and future occurrences must be prevented as an absolute priority.

5 The motivation for the entirely unnecessary **COVID Intervention** should be subject to a Royal
6 Commission. It is indisputable the proponents being people in senior positions in Government and
7 the executive, banks, corporate Australia and the medical industry were also the overwhelming
8 beneficiaries in terms of a massive wealth transfer of private and public funds.

- 9 • \$400billion typed into the Exchange Settlement Accounts of banks by the RBA
10 Governor through Quantitative Easing and Term Funding Facility to be repaid from
11 public funds.
 - 12 i. Noteworthy is \$188billion (TFF) of the eye watering transfer taken from public
13 funds was lent to banks at 0.1% and 0.25% that is now being lent back to
14 Australians at 6 to 7 % ensuring increased profits on 30 year mortgages etc.
- 15 • International pharmaceutical companies in receipt of at least \$17billion in unwanted
16 experimental products – Annual tenders covering fully approved vaccines averaged
17 at around \$130million, quite the increase in profit.
- 18 • The medical industry in general,
 - 19 i. Aspen Medical received in excess of \$1billion for services including a
20 temporary hospital in Canberra that was never needed.
 - 21 ii. Suppliers of PPE much of which has expired and been wasted (over
22 \$300million in waste in WA alone).
 - 23 iii. Suppliers of COVID testing kits.
- 24 • Much of Corporate Australia that remained fully operational during **COVID**
25 **Intervention** while thousands of small to medium businesses were shutdown.
 - 26 i. Corporate Australia that did closedown had the capital to reopen and
27 benefitted from the demise of many small businesses that did not reopen.

28 Sample of *Serious harms* to ordinary Australians of **COVID Intervention**

- 29 • Pharmaceutical product death and injury (some permanent)
 - 30 o It is noted the majority of Australians rejected the products until Corporate Australia
31 in cooperation with Government and a military commander threatened livelihoods.
- 32 • Coinciding excess mortality greater than 10% – **ABS Graphic 5**

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Australia	-3.1	1.4	10.9	9.1
New South Wales	-4.1	0.1	10.7	8.6
Victoria	-0.9	3.4	13.2	12.0
Queensland	-4.3	0.8	10.1	7.8
South Australia	-3.2	0.5	9.2	8.9
Western Australia	-3.9	0.6	6.2	6.1
Tasmania	-3.6	5.8	13.6	17.3

- Compromised education – children refer **Graphic 6** below

School truancy and absenteeism doubled since the COVID-19 pandemic

January 18, 2023 - 12:33PM sky news .COM.AU

Truancy and absenteeism among school students have doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to government data.

The Australia Secondary Principals' Association says the COVID-19 pandemic has created mental health problems among those who refuse to attend school.

-
- Wealth loss – unemployment, reduced hours
- Small business closures
 - Career banker and momentary Federal Treasurer willing to sacrifice 25% of small businesses to combat a virus that causes cold and flu symptoms.

Graphic 7

The image shows a screenshot of a news article from SmartCompany. The article is titled "While Frydenberg admits some small businesses “will not survive”, the RBA says up to 25% could fail". The author is Stephanie Palmer-Derrien, and the date is October 12, 2020. The article features a photo of a man in a suit, likely Frydenberg, standing in front of a screen displaying a line graph. The graph shows a sharp decline in a metric, possibly representing business performance or survival rates. The article is categorized under "CORONAVIRUS, ECONOMY".

END