

[REDACTED]
From: [Julia C](#)

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To: [Information Integrity](#)

Subject: Submission on proposed Communications Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Sensitivity: Normal

Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023

I object to the proposed legislation in the strongest terms based on the following:

- The proposal will place limitations on *freedom of speech* and *expression of ideas* in the digital public space, which constitutes an attack on the freedom of individuals and groups to *engage in meaningful public debate*.
- The terms and definitions of what constitutes 'misinformation', 'disinformation' and 'harm' in the legislation are *extremely broad and open to a wide range of interpretations*.
- Nowhere in the legislation does it set out what viewpoints are *acceptable* and what would be regarded as '*misinformation*' regarding any of the nominated '*harm*' areas.
- This legislation *divides the community into two groups* i.e. those who are bound by the 'misinformation' rules and those who are exempt.
- The legislation's definition of 'harm' *extends well beyond the community's view of taboo subjects*. For example, in the legislation 'harm' is considered to include matters relating to health, the environment, economic and financial matters, the Australian democratic process etc.
- It will be incumbent on the digital platform to make the decisions on which comments, viewpoints and opinions constitute 'misinformation'. *These digital platforms are almost all private, unelected organisations, who will be making very important decisions that go to the heart of freedom of speech in our country.*

This legislation must not proceed and I urge you to preserve all aspects of freedom of speech that we the people of Australia enjoy today.

Regards

Julia Chant

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.