

## New ACMA powers to combat misinformation and disinformation

I wish to make a submission in response to an exposure draft of the Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023.

I wish to have it known that I **STRONGLY OBJECT** to the proposed draft legislation on the grounds that the terms of “misinformation and disinformation” are subjective and therefore infringes on the right to free speech in our apparent democratic country.

Given the tyrannical-like overreach of the Government (both Federal and State) in the last three years during the Covid pandemic with regard to “information” which has since been proven by evidence to be untrue, misinformation, disinformation (or just a plain lie), it is a continuation of that overreach to now deem yourselves the arbiters of truth. I also find it abhorrent and disgraceful that the Government would also see themselves as exempt from the consequences of spreading misinformation, disinformation or lies within the draft legislation. This adds weight to the belief that government bureaucrats cannot be trusted with being the arbiters of truth, let alone claim to govern with any degree of transparency (a term used so frequently, but never adhered to).

I also find it despicable to then put the onus on digital platform services, who are sponsored by large corporations with their own paid-for agendas, to then “police” what is misinformation or disinformation (except where that misinformation or disinformation comes from a government agency). We saw what happened during the Covid pandemic, where anyone questioning all the ridiculously contradictory information coming from the Government were shut down, banned or otherwise “cancelled” in response. And given that the lions share of misinformation and disinformation came from the Health Department and the Pharmaceutical Industry sponsored AHPRA, it’s little wonder there is no longer trust in the Government’s version of the “truth”.

I **DO NOT TRUST** this Government, or any other Government or Corporation, to make an arbitrary decision on what is truth and what is not truth. This has nothing to do with protecting the people of Australia, and everything to do with controlling the narrative of the Government, regardless of actual evidence-based “truth”.

During the last three years, Australia has seen an unprecedented overreach from Government, ignoring rule of law, human rights and the Australian Constitution, with regard to lock-downs, vaccine mandates and discrimination. Too many people have lost their lives and livelihoods, as a direct consequence of this overreach (far more than those who actually died from Covid). The incessant fear campaign used to control the population and turn people against each other was an abhorrent and disgraceful act of malfeasance, the likes we have never before seen in Australia.

The Labor Corporation has done enough harm to the people of Australia. They forget that the People hold the power. You work for and with the People of Australia. Australia is NOT and NEVER WILL become a Totalitarian State like North Korea. This draft legislation is an example of the Labor Corporation imposing the beginnings of Totalitarianism on Australia, and has nothing to do with protecting the people from “misinformation or disinformation”.

If the Labor Corporation again ignore the will of the people, it will act as evidence that your government wish to control, rather that work for, the people of Australia and will serve as an example of how our freedoms will be further infringed upon and that democracy has truly become a fallacy in this country. The draft legislation is an offence against the people of Australia and our freedom of speech.