

I am very concerned about the current Misinformation and Disinformation Bill which was NOT on the government's manifesto at election time.

**This Bill represents a direct violation of our human rights under the UNHCR Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 19 and 20:**

*Article 19*

*Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.*

*Article 20*

*1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.*

Who is the arbiter of truth? Government or the people?

**The only truth we can truly access is in freedom of speech, diversity of opinion and in public debate.**

Muzzling "big tech" is censorship. It's autocratic and dictatorial. The government's function is to serve the people, not their own agendas. They are not capable of determining misinformation or disinformation, because information is dynamic. It is never a set imperative.

It is no small thing that this bill is "just for big tech" companies. The online media platforms have become the preferred way of accessing news for many people and is where you can find alternative sources of information to the mainstream media.

Each of the major previously trusted news channels such as the ABC, the commercial channels and Fox, have their own rigid political agendas. They each have a different puppet master. Independent journalism has all but disappeared, which is why we look to alternative sources for information. This is where people are able to discuss and share peer-reviewed, scientific data, which the mainstream media has ignored. It is where courageous independent investigative journalists are bringing to light information that governments and bureaucracies have stymied.

It is the only place where truth can prevail. It is the only place, where we can question and hold our government to account.

If Australia is to remain free and democratic, please oppose this bill. Or look to a future where your children will own nothing. They won't own their own thoughts. They won't own their medicated bodies.

If you want your children to be blissfully ignorant and unquestionably compliant then vote in favour.