

Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation)
Bill 2023

All Australians deserve freedom of speech even if it may be inconvenient or uncomfortable for some.

With freedom of speech comes the ability for many opinions to be given and discussed so that people can make informed decisions for themselves.

Freedom of speech in Australia in the last few years has been severely affected by censorship and many Australians are blindly unaware of the truth of many matters because of the suppression of alternative points of view that are backed by verifiable facts. The success of current laws in restricting information contrary to the government narrative means that even more draconian legislation such as this Bill is not necessary.

This Bill will severely limit freedom of speech even more than is happening now and most worrying to me is the lack of detail as to who will determine what the truth is. Far more detail is required as to how the legislation will be enacted and there should be a process for Australians to be able to question the resulting “truths”.

Are these “truths” to be enshrined in a document so that Australians know that any information coming from governments and media sources are conforming to that narrative and why?

I believe this Bill is a further erosion of my human rights and I fear for the future of Australian society if Freedom of Speech is to become Control of Speech by authorities not outlined in this legislation.

Susan Brandon

25 July 2023