

Submission concerning “New ACMA powers to combat misinformation and disinformation”.

Author: Dr David S. Maddison

*** FOR PUBLICATION ***

“IN TIMES OF UNIVERSAL DECEIT TELLING THE TRUTH IS A REVOLUTIONARY ACT”

CONTENTS

PART 1	INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
PART 2	FREE SPEECH AND CENSORSHIP
PART 3	THE “OFFICIAL NARRATIVE”
PART 4	WHO DOES THE CENSORING?
PART 5	EXAMPLES OF DIS- AND MISINFORMATION
PART 6	CALLING OUT DIS- AND MISINFORMATION
PART 7	AUSTRALIA DOES HAVE SOME HOPE LEFT

This submission is in reference to a call for submissions as detailed at <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say/new-acma-powers-combat-misinformation-and-disinformation> “New ACMA powers to combat misinformation and disinformation”.

PART 1 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Introduction

Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this matter by way of this submission. Making this submission should, of course, be unnecessary. The fact that it is even necessary to write such a missive in defence of free speech is indicative of the alarmingly low level to which Government respect for Australian “representative democracy” and “free speech” has fallen. I trust this and all other submissions supportive of maintaining some semblance of free speech in Australia will be taken seriously and that the present request for submissions is not just for “show”.

The premise of this call for submissions

I would like to start by examining the basic premise of this inquiry.

CLAIM at <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say/new-acma-powers-combat-misinformation-and-disinformation> “*Misinformation and disinformation pose a threat to the safety and wellbeing of Australians, as well as to our democracy, society and economy.*”

That claim is utterly without foundation. Being able to analyse issues and make up one’s own mind is the essence of day-to-day living in a representative democracy and a free society.

There is no one “single source of truth” contrary to what New Zealand’s PM Ardern infamously said on March 19th, 2020 for which she was rightly and widely condemned world wide and extensively mocked. Specifically she said “*We will continue to be your single source of truth*” and “*Unless you hear it from us, it is not the truth.*” It’s difficult to imagine a more Orwellian real-life statement than that.

People have always had to live with different sources of information and have decided the truth for themselves. This is easier to do now than ever before, with almost unlimited, unrestricted access to information on the Internet. Some reliable, some not. But that's why people are endowed by their Creator with a brain and we have an education system and for children, parental guidance. This enables people to distinguish fact from fiction.

Also, if there is only officially-sanctioned information available, it will come to be that people automatically assume it is true. But often Government sanctioned information or other information is not true and conversely some information that is claimed to be false is actually true as we shall show by way of example.

Further on, we will discuss some examples of information that Government and their agents in legacy and social media falsely claimed to be false when it was actually true.

One exception to the above – when dis- and misinformation comes from Government

There is in fact one exception to the above statement. ***Dis- and misinformation when it comes from Government.*** The problem with Government dis- and misinformation is that many people regard Government as a credible information source. This can actually be dangerous because it is assumed to be authoritative plus also Government has the power to suppress alternate, possibly more reliable sources of information which is in fact what the proposed bill intends to do.

In regard to other sources of dis- and misinformation, there are multiple sources of information and people can make up their own minds. I don't see this as a serious problem unlike dis- and misinformation from Government.

Origin of this bill?

The idea for this bill appears to be based upon the US Government's failed "Disinformation Governance Board" whose purpose was, much like this bill, was to combat "*misinformation, malinformation, and disinformation that threatens the security of the homeland*". It was rightly likened to Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four* "Ministry of Truth", "Orwellian"; as "Unconstitutional" and "*a cautionary note on how dangerously out of touch Washington is*" and; a "*terrible idea*" that "*communicates to the world that we're going to be spreading propaganda in our own country*". (Reference: Wikipedia.). Not surprisingly, it was subject to enormous criticism, and was a clear violation of that country's First Amendment right to free speech and was disbanded after only four months. Sadly, Australians have no such Constitutional Right to free speech as do American citizens. Australian Governments have never been afraid to, and often actively seek to adopt the failed ideas of others, so here we are trying to defend against this sinister legislation....

PART 2 FREE SPEECH AND CENSORSHIP

Its not about free speech, its about dis- and misinformation?

There may be some semantic games being played by the proponents of this bill, but it is fundamentally about free speech. Calling what is sought to be censored or controlled "dis-" or "misinformation" when it is really speech, in all its variety of forms, that is sought to be controlled is a disingenuous and dishonest word game.

The legal Right to free speech

Although Australia has no Constitutionally recognised Right to free speech, the High Court has decided that there is an implied right to free speech of a political nature. It is not a strong protection.

There is also Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which states:

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.

<https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/03/udhr.pdf>

Philosophical basis of free speech

The principle moral philosopher of the Commonwealth countries is Jeremy Bentham while the US Founding Fathers sought inspiration from John Locke.

Jeremy Bentham thought people only had rights that came from Government alone whilst John Locke believed that people had “natural rights” beyond those “granted” by Government.

Despite these differences, both men believed in free speech and freedom of expression.

In “Jeremy Bentham on Freedom of the Press, Public Opinion, and Good Government” by Philip Schofield in *Scandinavica*, Vol 58, No 2, 2019,

<https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10105424/1/13223-jeremy-bentham-on-freedom-of-the-press-public-opinion-and-good-government.pdf> Philip Schofield argues that “Throughout his career Bentham placed great emphasis on public opinion as a bulwark against oppression and misrule” and also quotes Bentham “on the liberty of the press; or the security which every man, be he of the one class or the other, may make known his complaints and remonstrances to the whole community: – on the liberty of public association; or the security with which malecontents may communicate their sentiments, concert their plans, and practise every mode of opposition short of actual revolt, before the executive power can be legally justified in disturbing them”.

As argued by Alex Daniel in “Speech Locked Up: John Locke, Liberalism and the Regulation of Speech” 2013 https://scholarship.shu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1154&context=student_scholarship

the basis for Locke’s “rejection of speech regulation derives from his belief in inherent individual liberty - for Locke, speech was not simply a means to arrive at the truth, but rather it was an absolute right guaranteed to citizens by virtue of their status of autonomous, individual beings living in a free society” and “Locke’s advocacy for modern constitutional government was not a coincidence, but rather stemmed from Locke’s epistemological belief that the key to a stable society was not stasis, but rather social and intellectual dynamism”.

Whichever moral philosopher one goes by, free speech is the right of a free people. Sadly, free speech in Australia is not truly supported by any major political party, only by some of the minor parties who are not part of Government or Opposition.

Free speech doesn’t always mean “nice” speech

Making “bad” speech containing dis- or misinformation, or objectionable speech, illegal or controlled doesn’t make it go away, it just drives it underground where it is far more dangerous

because it becomes invisible and beyond refutation or public ridicule. The cure for bad speech is good speech.

Origin of moral viewpoints

You can't acquire incorrect or despicable views just by reading or watching something with incorrect or unacceptable views. However, such views should not be censored either. It is helpful to see these variant views so they can be refuted or mocked. If they are driven underground, no one will ever see these views and like an infected wound they will just fester. Let these views be "cleansed by the light". Decent, correct and righteous views primarily come from proper parental upbringing, proper teaching at school, religious experience and views promulgated from other decent, learned and moral people. They do not originate with Government or their agents.

It is censorship!

Let's call it what it is Censorship, the true name for the control of the supposed dis- or misinformation being called for. It is incorrect to call it anything other than what it really is. Honesty is *essential* in any discussion in any proposal to remove this fundamental element of representative democracy, free speech.

Is it Government's role to decide what people can and can't read?

Fundamentally, the Government should not be in the business of deciding what a supposedly free Australian people can and cannot read, or decide what is and isn't "disinformation" or "misinformation" whatever that is interpreted to mean and by whichever censor decides what constitutes such material, presumably from a department equivalent to the "*Ministry of Truth*" in Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four*. I will discuss more on what constitutes "disinformation" and "misinformation" elsewhere.

A moderate start but what next?

Like all government legislation, this is only a less malevolent beginning to something which will gradually (or rapidly) expand in scope. This is generally called "mission creep". With time the regulation of speech will become much more draconian judging by how other anti-freedom legislation develops. It always starts from the least objectionable position, although in this case the starting position is already objectionable. It can only get far worse from here.

PART 3 THE "OFFICIAL NARRATIVE"

The Official Narrative

The *Official Narrative* is a term I have coined to describe Government's official position on any matter, which is also almost always reflected by the mainstream legacy media, social media (except free speech oriented X/Twitter under present management) and corporations if they want to retain good standing with government. Anything not in accord with the Official Narrative is deemed dis- and misinformation by Government and its agents (in legacy and social media).

What is really being enforced by the dis- and misinformation legislation is the Official Narrative. Government will decide the Official Narrative on any topic and then will expect it to be ruthlessly enforced under penalty of law or loss of Government favours to corporations.

The Official Narrative is the real dis- and misinformation.

There is rarely one “correct” opinion on anything. A free society has a plurality of opinions on everything and these ought to be subject to an open, robust and vigorous public debate, something not possible when Government seeks to enforce its own Official Narrative on any topic. Also, there is no such thing as “settled science” as we will discuss.

Typically, anyone who questions the Official Narrative is falsely accused of being “a tin-foil hat wearing conspiracy theorist”, “uneducated”, “fascist”, “various types of “phobic”” or any other of a number of gratuitous *ad hominem* insults. These insults are undeserved and simply not true and more a projection of the accuser.

“Settled science” and “scientific consensus”

In regard to supposed dis- or misinformation, one often hears the term that something is “settled science” or “scientific consensus”. There is no such thing. I am a PhD scientist and no professional, ethical scientist would ever say that (and I have never heard it said from an ethical learned scientist). That’s not how science and the scientific method works. “*One Hundred Authors Against Einstein*” was published in 1931 denouncing Einstein’s work. When asked to comment on this denunciation of relativity by so many scientists, Einstein replied that to defeat relativity one did not need the word of 100 scientists, *just one fact*. The “consensus” opinion is not necessarily correct and has no scientific validity.

Scientific fact is not established by consensus, it never has been, real science never will be.

Also, for an example of “manufactured consensus” see article <https://www.dailysignal.com/2023/08/09/fake-climate-change-consensus> “How That ‘Scientific Consensus’ on Climate Change Was ‘Manufactured’ by John Stossel, August 09, 2023.

Doublethink

Government dis- and misinformation may lead to some people having doublethink, a term derived from George Orwell’s prophetic *Nineteen Eighty Four*, defined as follows: doublethink, /ˈdʌblɪθɪŋk/, noun, the acceptance of contrary opinions or beliefs at the same time, especially as a result of political indoctrination. An example of this would be when Government constantly tells the Australian people that wind power is the cheapest of all methods of electricity generation and that electricity bills are coming down; and then the people seeing their electricity bill for some of the world’s most expensive electricity and accepting both positions as true.

GOVERNMENT ITSELF GENERATES MUCH DIS- AND MISINFORMATION IN ORDER TO ENFORCE THE OFFICIAL NARRATIVE AS WE SHALL SEE IN PART 5.

PART 4 WHO DOES THE CENSORING?

Who will be doing the censoring?

The intention is for private companies to do the censoring but this is only at the behest of Government. It is utterly disingenuous to say this is not Government censorship when the private companies know if they don’t comply they will be punished by Government. This is Government censorship no matter how it is spun. In other words, the censorship by the private sector will only happen as a requirement of the proposed legislation therefore it can only be truthfully considered Government censorship.

“Fact checkers”

If the Government isn't directly censoring, private sector will be on their behalf. They already employ “Fact checkers” (sic), often at the behest of Government, but will no doubt be forced to employ more. So-called fact checkers are often no more than activist-journalists or “social justice warriors” with no scientific, engineering, technical, medical or other training whatsoever (or even a basic understanding thereof) involved in censoring or “correcting” some of the world's leading authorities in various areas of expertise and accusing them of being purveyors of so-called dis- or misinformation. To paraphrase a famous activist “how dare they!”.

“Fact checkers” also overwhelmingly support the Government “Official Narrative”.

In the United States, the publication “The Federalist” was subject to false claims of “disinformation” by “fact checkers” and discuss this in an article entitled “*The Disinformation Police Are Even More Incompetent And Dishonest Than You Imagine*”. Ref:

<https://thefederalist.com/2023/07/21/the-disinformation-police-are-more-incompetent-and-dishonest-than-you-imagine/>

Why shouldn't something be labeled or removed as dis- or misinformation?

Labeling something dis- or misinformation (or removing/censoring it) stops legitimate questions being asked which is the opposite of what is needed. For example the lab leak theory of the origin of Covid-19 was labeled dis- or misinformation despite actual experts saying it was likely a human-modified virus or at least was the result of a lab leak. Such a claim whether true or not, deserved and continues to deserve thorough investigation but people were afraid to investigate it because the Official Narrative said it was a natural zoonosis (of animal origin).

Will legislation about dis- or misinformation make it disappear?

Whatever the content that is sought to be removed, it will be just driven “underground”. Such underground information will in fact be potentially quite harmful because it will not be able to be seen, scrutinised, corrected by regular people or experts commenting on it or even known about.

PART 5 EXAMPLES OF DIS- AND MISINFORMATION

Some examples of things various Governments and/or their social media or legacy media agents (and others) claimed were dis- or disinformation or false include the following:

AS I WILL DEMONSTRATE IT IS GOVERNMENT ITSELF WHICH IS THE MAIN AND MOST DANGEROUS SOURCE OF DIS- AND MISINFORMATION

DISINFORMATION #1 Australian Government censorship of social media posts re: Covid-19

An example of the Australian Government itself propagating dis- and misinformation in the sense that it censored alternative accurate information is the revelation that the Australian Government used its social media agents to censor thousands of posts about Covid-19 which were in fact factually correct.

---CONTINUED---

E.g. <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/many-censored-social-media-posts-did-not-contain-covid19-misinformation/news-story/c47a8217ffada2cf576475aef3c12c63>

Banned Covid posts ‘totally factual’ *“Many of 4000 social media posts secretly censored by government during the pandemic contained factual information and reasonable arguments, rather than misinformation.”*

DISINFORMATION #2 Ten things claimed by Covid-19 “experts” — now debunked

Many or indeed most claims of the Official Narrative in regard to Covid-19 have now been debunked. These are claims that Government and their agents claimed to be true while any dissenting view on social media platforms was regarded as dis- and misinformation and censored. Remarkably, this Australian (and other) Government sponsored dis- and misinformation are now even being admitted to by the mainstream legacy media such as in the following article.

<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/health-problems/10-myths-told-by-covid-experts-now-debunked/news-story/d414984470291668356217f4b3fa1f9c>

Summarising the above article the following items claimed by Government as truth are now known to be false according to experts (authored by Marty Makary MD, MPH who is a Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in the United States, one of the world’s leading medical schools):

- Government Misinformation #1: Natural immunity offers little protection compared to vaccinated immunity
- Government Misinformation #2: Masks prevent Covid transmission
- Government Misinformation #3: School closures reduce Covid transmission
- Government Misinformation #4: Myocarditis from the vaccine is less common than from the infection
- Government Misinformation #5: Young people benefit from a vaccine booster
- Government Misinformation #6: Vaccine mandates increased vaccination rates
- Government Misinformation #7: Covid originating from the Wuhan Lab is a conspiracy theory
- Government Misinformation #8: It was important to get the 2nd vaccine dose 3 or 4 weeks after the 1st dose
- Government Misinformation #9: Data on the bivalent vaccine is “crystal clear”
- Government Misinformation #10: One in five people get long Covid

Prof. Makary Tweeted on 28th February 2023:

Health officials were not wrong for making recommendations based on what was known at the time. They were wrong because they refused to evolve their position in the face of new evidence. When a study did not support their policies, they dismissed it (and censored opposing opinions).

It turns out that when Government both in Australia and elsewhere and their social media agents censored dissenting views to the above, they were censoring the truth and it was thus an obvious case of Government promoting the dis- or misinformation.

DISINFORMATION #3 Wind and solar energy cheaper?

In Australia wind and solar are constantly stated by Government to be “the cheapest form of electricity production” but the truth is that the more we get, the more expensive consumer electricity becomes. The Official Narrative is obviously not true but any attempt to question it results in ridicule and even claims of dis- or misinformation. E.g. <https://www.energy.gov.au/government-priorities/energy-supply> “Wind and solar photovoltaics (PV) are now the cheapest forms of new electricity generation in terms of electricity produced.” is obvious dis- or misinformation from the Australian Government.

DISINFORMATION #4 Vitamin D and Covid-19 – Government dis- or misinformation

Another example of Australian Government dis- or misinformation is about the association of Vitamin D and Covid-19. At the following Government link it is stated that vitamin pills cannot protect you from the coronavirus.

<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/blog/can-you-boost-your-immune-system-against-the-coronavirus-covid-19> *Do vitamin pills protect you from the coronavirus? No.*

This is simply not true for the very large numbers of Australians, especially those in nursing homes who are Vitamin D insufficient or deficient. It has been conclusively proven that appropriate Vitamin D supplementation in such people does have a protective effect against coronavirus.

See Pharmaceuticals (Basel). 2023 Jan; 16(1): 130 “Protective Effect of Vitamin D Supplementation on COVID-19-Related Intensive Care Hospitalization and Mortality: Definitive Evidence from Meta-Analysis and Trial Sequential Analysis” *“In conclusion, the positive results highlighted again and now validated by TSAs [Trial Sequential Analysis] suggest that an indisputable association between vitamin D supplementation and the protective effect on ICU [Intensive Care Unit] admission can be considered definitive evidence.”*

How many Australians died unnecessarily because the Australian Government said that Vitamin D could not protect against coronavirus disease? A measure as simple as mailing a bottle of Vitamin D with instructions to every household in Australia could have saved countless lives (apart from other measures).

DISINFORMATION #5 “There are no vaccine mandates in Australia”

That is yet another case of Australian Government misinformation. The former PM Scott Morrison repeatedly said that “there were no vaccine mandates in Australia” but that clearly was untrue as numerous Australians were sacked from the jobs, including doctors, nurses, airline pilots and many others for refusing to participate in vaccine mandates. And mandates remain to this day in various sectors and in Melbourne there is a lady who is being refused a heart transplant to this very day because she refuses to be vaccinated (following a permanent legal exemption from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)) and has to go overseas at her own expense (via fundraising) to get a transplant in a country with no such mandates.

Ref: <https://twitter.com/senatorbabet/status/1648641222121234432> “Despite being a strong candidate for a transplant the Alfred Hospital has refused to place her on the transplant list. Why?” and <https://twitter.com/MRobertsQLD/status/1590628165235650579> “Scott Morrison's claim that 'there are no vaccine mandates' in Australia was always fake news”.

DISINFORMATION #6 Myocarditis is only a “rare” side-effect of Covid-19 vaccination?

The Australian Government claims injuries from Covid-19 vaccinations are rare but this appears not to be true. For example, in respect to just one documented side-effect, myocarditis, the following journal article documents that such injuries are more common than claimed.

Eur J Heart Fail 2023 Jul 20. doi: 10.1002/ejhf.2978.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37470105/>

“Sex-specific differences in myocardial injury incidence after COVID-19 mRNA-1273 Booster Vaccination”

“...In conclusion, using active surveillance, mRNA-1273 vaccine-associated mild transient myocardial injury was found to be much more common than previously thought. It occurred in one out of 35 persons, was mild and transient, and more frequent in women versus men...”

Unlike many other tissues, once heart tissue is damaged, even if the damage is sub-clinical, in all but the mildest cases, the damage can be permanent and long term effects unknown. It was misinformation for the Australian Government and their agents to say such effects are rare or necessarily harmless. An injury rate of 1 in 35 is not “rare” in a compulsory mass-vaccination campaign.

DISINFORMATION #7 W.A. Government Covid-19 vaccine adverse reactions report

There was an unexpectedly extremely candid and honest report from the WA Government, “Western Australian Vaccine Safety Surveillance – Annual Report 2021” released late and only recently:

<https://www.health.wa.gov.au/~media/Corp/Documents/Health-for/Immunisation/Western-Australia-Vaccine-Safety-Surveillance-Annual-Report-2021.pdf>

The extremely high rate of reported adverse effects from Covid-19 vaccinations was documented. Reference to page 28 shows an adverse rate of events of 11.1 per 100,000 doses for non-Covid-19 vaccinations and 264.1 per 100,000 doses for Covid-19 vaccinations. Note that not all adverse reactions will have been reported as many doctors were afraid of ridicule if they reported the truth (because the Official Narrative said the vaccines were safe and side-effects were extremely rare).

It is Australian Government misinformation to say that the Covid-19 vaccine was safe if it has an adverse event rate of nearly 24 times that of conventional vaccines according to information from an Australian State Government.

DISINFORMATION #8 Claim: Hunter Biden laptop Dis/Misinformation

The Hunter Biden laptop is a US story but relevant to Australia because the US is our closest and most powerful ally and misinformation on that affected the 2020 US Presidential outcome.

This story also shows how false claims of dis- and misinformation can swing democratic elections. This could equally apply to Australia.

According to <https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2020/nov/26/cooper-biden-voters/> “one of every six Biden voters (17%) said they would not have voted for him had they known the facts about several of the news stories the national media refused to investigate thoroughly” and “Had one of six voters not voted for Biden in the swing states, or voted for Trump instead, the election would have turned out differently.”.

The Official Narrative was that the Hunter Biden laptop was “disinformation”. E.g This article from 2020 claims that the story about the contents of the laptop were “Russian disinfo”

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/10/19/hunter-biden-story-russian-disinfo-430276> and then this

article points out the contents are in fact authentic

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2022/03/30/hunter-biden-laptop-data-examined/> .

Nobody today including Hunter Biden himself denies that the contents are authentic.

DISINFORMATION #9 Claim: Covid-19 lockups were effective

In Australia and many places worldwide citizens were effectively held at home under house-arrest allowed to leave only for “essential” activities. The Official Narrative was that lockups (lockdowns) saved lives e.g. for Victoria see <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/victorias-pandemic-management-framework> and <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/pandemic-order-register> And yet, the lockups came at tremendous human, physical health, mental health and economic cost. While the Official Narrative was that lockups reduced transmission of Covid-19 but this is highly questionable as studies show. For example:

In <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9368251/> “Are Lockdowns Effective in Managing Pandemics?”, Moshe Yanovski and Yehoshua Socol, Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2022 Aug; 19(15): 9295 comment that “*extreme measures that deprived billions of their basic human rights*”, “*The extent of human life lost due to lockdowns themselves has never been quantitatively reported*”, “*governments continuously stuck to these measures despite the absence of proof that such measures were effective in controlling the pandemic*”, and draw the conclusions that “*1) Neither previous pandemics nor COVID-19 provide clear evidence that lockdowns help to prevent death in pandemic and 2) Lockdowns are associated with a considerable human cost. Even if somewhat effective in preventing COVID-19 death, they probably cause far more extensive (an order of magnitude or more) loss of life.*”

Also see <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/what-if-lockdowns-dont-save-lives/news-story/5a7b69881d3323d5edd51698270e2422> “What if lockdowns don’t save lives? - The evidence supporting lockdowns is shockingly weak, resting on little more than anecdote, faith and tendentious modelling.”

And <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/lockdowns-hurt-mental-health-more-than-case-numbers-deaths-20220921-p5bjt5> “Lockdowns hurt mental health more than case numbers, deaths”.

Also <https://www.news.com.au/national/australias-huge-covid-lies-finally-exposed/news-story/44c571e0f0f3f2100226b709717638af> “Australia’s huge Covid lies finally exposed”.

The Official Narrative said Covid-19 lockups were good. The truth was that they weren’t.

DISINFORMATION #10 CO2 emissions by country

To listen to all state and federal governments constantly talking about Australia’s CO2 emissions one would actually believe the dis- and misinformation that Australia has an especially serious CO2 emissions problem.

But nothing could be further from the truth. Australia actually has a very low, ranked 14 (Table 1), level of CO2 emissions while China has a level of emissions more than twice that of the United States. CO2 emissions are leveling off or decreasing in Western countries (see Figure 1) while China has no emissions limits imposed on it whatsoever and they are building about two new coal

fired power stations every week (see Ref below) and emissions are increasing dramatically. It's hardly worth destroying our economy for as we are in fact doing.

Ref: <https://energyandcleanair.org/publication/china-permits-two-new-coal-power-plants-per-week-in-2022>

1	China	10,432,751,400
2	United States	5,011,686,600
3	India	2,533,638,100
4	Russia	1,661,899,300
5	Japan	1,239,592,060
6	Germany	775,752,190
7	Canada	675,918,610
8	Iran	642,560,030
9	South Korea	604,043,830
10	Indonesia	530,035,650
11	Saudi Arabia	517,079,407
12	Brazil	462,994,920
13	Mexico	441,412,750
14	Australia	414,988,700

TABLE 1: World production of CO2 emissions from fossil fuels, tonnes.

Source <https://www.worldometers.info/co2-emissions/co2-emissions-by-country/>

World fossil carbon dioxide emission 1970-2021

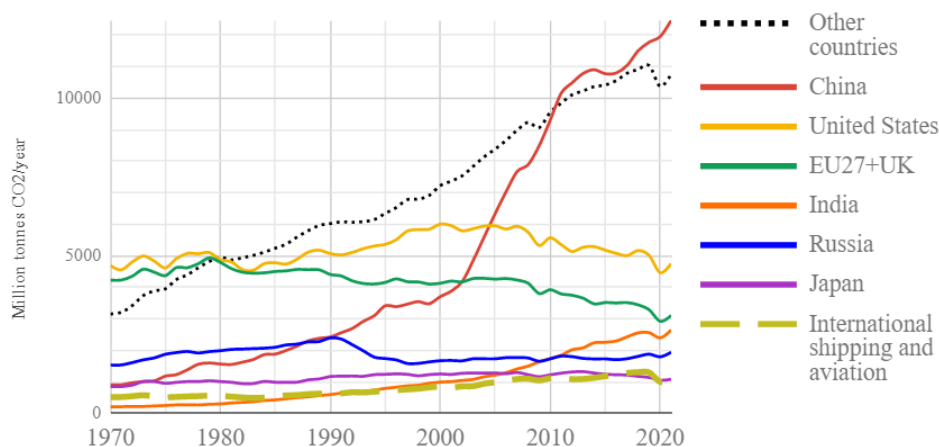


FIGURE 1: Historical CO2 emissions from some leading countries.

Image credit: Tomastvivlaren Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.

Source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:World_fossil_carbon_dioxide_emissions_six_top_countries_and_confederations.png

DISINFORMATION #11 Excess deaths

Using official Government Australian Bureau of Statistics figures, Senator Rennick and many others have analysed Australia's "excess death" statistics pre, during and post Covid-19 with some alarming factual results. See, for example, <https://gerardrennick.com.au/mainstream-media-excess-deaths-not-covid/> . And yet this factual information based upon the Government's own statistics is claimed to be dis- or misinformation. Other analyses were based on figures by the Actuaries Institute (Australia) <https://www.actuaries.digital/2023/03/06/almost-20000-excess-deaths-for-2022-in-australia/> They conclude in part:

Our expectation is that excess mortality for the full year 2022 will be 12% i.e. there were nearly 20,000 more deaths in 2022 than would have been expected if the pandemic had not happened.

Just over half of the expected excess mortality for 2022 is due to deaths from COVID-19 (+10,300 deaths), with another +2,900 where COVID-19 was a contributing factor, and the remaining excess of +6,600 with no mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate.

Surely this excess which has been seen in Australia and many other countries is worth looking into more deeply and not simply dismissed as dis- or misinformation? How many more people need to die because this information wasn't and isn't analysed more deeply or publicly debated?

DISINFORMATION #12 Bushfires caused by "climate change"

Recent wildfires in Greece were claimed to be due to "climate change" in accord with the Official Narrative even though the Greek Government stated they were due to arson. Many Australian bushfires are also falsely attributed to "climate change" when they were in fact arson.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jul/28/greece-fires-arsonists-extreme-weather>
"Most fires in Greece were started 'by human hand', government says"

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-51125898> A 2008 study found that in Australia about 85% of fires were triggered by human activity - this includes arson, but also carelessness or recklessness.

According to Australia's National Centre for Research in Bushfire and Arson, 13% of bushfires every year are deliberate and 37% are suspicious.

In the US state of California, 95% of wildfires are started by people - 7% of those by arson - according to Cal Fire, the state's fire service.

DISINFORMATION #13 The historical global temperature record

Many claims of catastrophic anthropogenic global warming are based on a supposed instrumental record going back to the 1800's but few people are aware that instrumental data for the world is extremely sparse until well after the 1950's. The figure below demonstrates the very few stations in the US Government NOAA Global Historical Climatology Network. As Tony Heller has pointed out (e.g. <https://youtu.be/1wpspx8EunU> and <https://youtu.be/r0l3tymEagc>) data is being generated (invented) for places for times where none was ever recorded and it is also being altered as Heller clearly demonstrates with NASA's own documents in the second video.

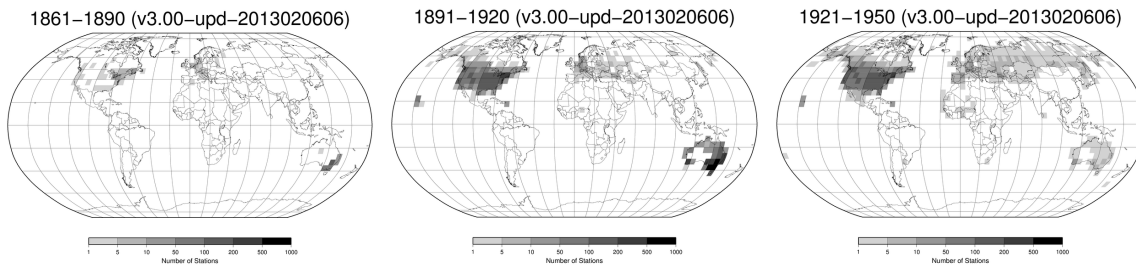


FIGURE: Global Historical Climatology Network stations until 1950 showing the sparse nature of temperature data which included mostly the US, Canada, Europe and Australia. It was only after 1950 that some reasonable data started to be collected for worldwide temperatures. Source: NOAA <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/products/land-based-station/global-historical-climatology-network-daily>, public domain.

DISINFORMATION #14 Catastrophic Anthropogenic Global Warming

The Australia Government is possibly among the most fanatical followers of the unproven hypothesis of Catastrophic Anthropogenic Global Warming of all the Governments of the world, but it is based on fraudulent evidence (as demonstrated by Tony Heller in videos linked at DISINFORMATION #13 above) and non-validated computer models. The graph below from testimony by John R. Christy from University of Alabama in Huntsville before the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space & Technology on 2nd Feb 2016 demonstrates the invalidity of the climate models on which the Australian Government is betting the entire economy.

In conventional scientific fields, such a lack of agreement with actual data would render the models invalid.

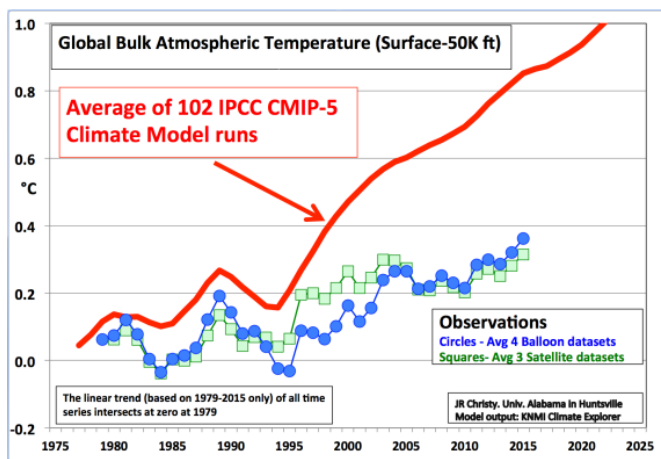


FIGURE: *Simple title:* Lack of congruence of temperature data between 102 IPCC computer climate models and actual physical data from balloons and satellites. Testimony before US Congress by Testimony of John R. Christy. *Detailed title:* “Five-year averaged values of annual mean (1979-2015) global bulk (termed “midtropospheric” or “MT”) temperature as depicted by the average of 102 IPCC CMIP5 climate models (red), the average of 3 satellite datasets (green - UAH, RSS, NOAA) and 4 balloon datasets (blue, NOAA, UKMet, RICH, RAOBCORE).” Source: <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/SY/SY00/20160202/104399/HHRG-114-SY00-Wstate-ChristyJ-20160202.pdf> , Public domain.

DISINFORMATION #15 The Hockey Stick Graph

The infamous Hockey Stick Graph which purported to show catastrophic global warming was first published in 1998 and in 2001 was used in the UN's IPCC came out with its Third Assessment Report.

This misinformation of that graph has been thoroughly discredited and there is an extensive history to that, too much to go into here. The reader is referred to

<https://www.justfacts.com/globalwarming.hidethedecline.asp> and

<https://www.manhattancontrarian.com/blog/2019-8-26-michael-mann-hockey-stick-update-now-definitively-proven-to-be-fraud> for the full history.

And yet despite the highly questionable nature of the graph, including the removal of the Medieval Warm Period, it was extensively used to drive Australian Government and other Government climate policy. According to the website at

<https://enthusiasmscepticismscience.wordpress.com/global-temperature-graphs/hockeystickaustgov/>

the Australian Government published the totally discredited Hockey Stick Graph and it was not removed from the Australian Government Climate Change website until late 2009. In other words the Australian Government was using invalid data to direct its own climate policy.

Also, for an Australian perspective on the hockey Stick, see <https://www.spectator.com.au/2020/12/cherry-picking-the-hockey-stick/> .

DISINFORMATION #16 Hydroxychloroquine for Covid-19 treatment

The Australian Government falsely claimed Hydroxychloroquine for Covid-19 treatment was toxic when taken according to published protocols but it is one of the safest drugs in the world when taken in any conceivable, reasonable or appropriate dose.

See <https://www.tga.gov.au/news/safety-alerts/new-restrictions-prescribing-hydroxychloroquine-covid-19>

"However, these medicines pose well-known serious risks to patients including cardiac toxicity (potentially leading to sudden heart attacks), irreversible eye damage and severe depletion of blood sugar (potentially leading to coma)." (Published 24 March 2020.)

Hydroxychloroquine taken according to published protocols (e.g. Zelenko) was shown to be effective for the treatment of Covid-19 but was banned by the Australian Government even before vaccines were available.

Early studies of effectiveness include [https://www.ijidonline.com/article/S1201-9712\(20\)30534-8/fulltext](https://www.ijidonline.com/article/S1201-9712(20)30534-8/fulltext)

"Treatment with hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin, and combination in patients hospitalized with COVID-19" Published July 01, 2020

DOI:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2020.06.099> *"Hydroxychloroquine provided a 66% hazard ratio reduction, and hydroxychloroquine + azithromycin 71% compared to neither treatment ($p < 0.001$)."*

More effective protocols were later developed that included zinc such as the acclaimed Zelenko protocol:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33122096/> “COVID-19 outpatients: early risk-stratified treatment with zinc plus low-dose hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin: a retrospective case series study”

Roland Derwand, Martin Scholz, Vladimir Zelenko. Int J Antimicrob Agents

2020 Dec;56(6):106214. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijantimicag.2020.106214> “This first retrospective case series study of COVID-19 outpatients in a primary care setting showed that risk-stratified treatment early after onset of clinical symptoms with triple therapy of zinc, low-dose HCQ and azithromycin was associated with significantly fewer hospitalisations (OR = 0.16; $P < 0.001$) in comparison with untreated patients (public reference data) of the same community.”

Sky News Australia was nevertheless suspended on YouTube for spreading supposed misinformation about hydroxychloroquine and other matters related to Covid-19, see <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-58045787> .

Also see <https://www.skynews.com.au/business/media/youtubes-sky-news-australia-suspension-disturbing-assault-on-freedom-of-thought/news-story/cc2ce1cad0dd5ec9693e2192759eab8b>

“YouTube’s Sky News Australia suspension ‘disturbing’ assault on freedom of thought” August 1, 2021

DISINFORMATION #17 Ivermectin for Covid-19 treatment

Strangely, there was similar Government dis- and misinformation about Ivermectin as for Hydroxychloroquine. <https://www.tga.gov.au/news/media-releases/new-restrictions-prescribing-ivermectin-covid-19> “These higher doses can be associated with serious adverse effects, including severe nausea, vomiting, dizziness, neurological effects such as dizziness, seizures and coma.”

Certainly no such toxicity has been reported when Ivermectin taken for Covid-19 treatment for an appropriate time, in an appropriate dose and according to the correct protocol.

Early studies include:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8088823/> “Review of the Emerging Evidence Demonstrating the Efficacy of Ivermectin in the Prophylaxis and Treatment of COVID-19” Am J Ther. 2021 May-Jun; 28(3): e299–e318

<https://doi.org/10.1097%2FMJT.0000000000001377> “Meta-analyses based on 18 randomized controlled treatment trials of ivermectin in COVID-19 have found large, statistically significant reductions in mortality, time to clinical recovery, and time to viral clearance. Furthermore, results from numerous controlled prophylaxis trials report significantly reduced risks of contracting COVID-19 with the regular use of ivermectin.”

Dr Pierre Kory wrote a book about Ivermectin and its efficacy for Covid-19 treatment, according to appropriate protocols, “The War on Ivermectin: The Medicine that Saved Millions and Could Have Ended the Pandemic”.

A widely cited study from 2022 claiming that Ivermectin was ineffective did not use zinc supplementation as is a fundamental requirement for Kory’s protocol.

Another 2022 study was:

---CONTINUED---

“Regular Use of Ivermectin as Prophylaxis for COVID-19 Led Up to a 92% Reduction in COVID-19 Mortality Rate in a Dose-Response Manner: Results of a Prospective Observational Study of a Strictly Controlled Population of 88,012 Subjects”
Cureus 2022 Aug 31;14(8):e28624. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36196304/>
<https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.28624> “Non-use of ivermectin was associated with a 12.5-fold increase in mortality rate and a seven-fold increased risk of dying from COVID-19 compared to the regular use of ivermectin. This dose-response efficacy reinforces the prophylactic effects of ivermectin against COVID-19.”

DISINFORMATION #18 Covid-19 vaccines would stop transmission and hospitalisation

Clearly this was not true at all and never was. E.g. see <https://joannenova.com.au/2021/10/uk-study-finds-covid-spreads-just-as-easily-from-the-vaccinated/>

PART 6 CALLING OUT DIS- AND MISINFORMATION

Honest sources of information

As I have shown above, clearly Government is not a reliable, accurate or honest source of information. Government provides the Official Narrative, which rarely corresponds to the truth, at least in the examples I have provided.

So where are people to obtain their information? It requires critical thinking, something that was once taught in schools but can be developed by anyone, even today and people will find reliable web sites they can trust. One Australian blog site that comes to mind is Jo Nova's at <https://joannenova.com.au/>. A YouTuber who gives honest, evidence-based information about Covid-19 and other medical issues is Dr John Campbell. Tony Heller is another YouTuber who provides evidence-based information on “Climate Change”. There are many others, both Australian and International.

Among sites that should not generally be trusted are social media sites which act as agents for Government (except X, formerly Twitter which doesn't do Government censorship) and legacy media sites when they act as agents for Government and thus are complicit in propagating dis- and misinformation from Government of the type I have highlighted above. And especially, Government sites should not be trusted unless there is proof that they are providing accurate information.

Science education

There is remarkable scientific ignorance in the community and especially among journalists and politicians. It is a sad indictment on the education system and science education in particular, as well as the failure to teach critical thinking skills. People would be far less susceptible to dis- and misinformation if they were appropriately educated.

The limits of free speech

There are of course some limits to free speech, this boundary it traditionally considered to be at actively calling for imminent acts of violence or other violations of the law such as portrayals of actual criminal acts. These acts are of course already illegal and no new laws are required to deal with them. And to quote the classic objection by those opposed to free speech, it does not mean people can call “fire in a theatre”. There is much legal jurisprudence on that very issue which we will not go into here.

The effect of Australian Government Dis- and Misinformation

Examples presented previously show that some of the most pervasive and dangerous dis- and misinformation comes from Government. That is the information people tend to believe. Not information from “fringe dwellers”. Government dis- and misinformation is what needs to be controlled and exposed.

Australian Government dis- and misinformation, especially in areas such as Covid-19 (leading to tremendous economic, social and physical harm) and “climate change” (leading to some of the world’s most expensive economy-destroying electricity prices in Australia) have resulted in a huge distrust of Government, medical and other authorities. This is not very conducive to a trusting or coherent society. Nowadays, Government and politicians tend to be seen more as the Enemy and not the humble servants of the people. Distrust and disrespect of Government is extremely high.

Also, Government dis- and misinformation about Covid-19 vaccines (documented above) has led to many people developing a mistrust of conventional vaccines and medications which are necessary for the good health of the Australian community. This will likely result in a drop of vaccination rates and reduced uptake of required medications.

How does dis- and misinformation propagate?

Much genuine dis- and misinformation is allowed to propagate because because a vast majority of so-called journalists no longer practice genuine journalism as in the practice of impartial reporting or investigative reporting but they just reproduce press releases from Government Ministers . Government departments and special interest groups or individuals without any critical assessment whatsoever, at least the ones that they agree with and who follow the Official Narrative.

Anything critical of the Official narrative is either ignored by the journalist or the writer of the criticism is subject to vicious ad hominem attacks.

Our democracy is seriously threatened by the failure of a vast amount of contemporary journalists to practice their jobs in accord with the traditional standards of that profession.

A serious threat to democracy

Claims of dis- and misinformation are a threat to the democratic process when they are used to silence elected members of state and federal Australian Parliaments. For example, social media platforms have threatened to “de-platform” (cancel the accounts) of Representatives and Senators for supposed dis- and misinformation. When this process is controlled by Government, it is easy to see how dissenting and Opposition voices can be cancelled.

Also, as reported by Sky News Australia August 02, 2021, they had their YouTube account suspended for a period of time for suppose dis- or misinformation even though those comments were based on those from experts (or indeed good management of public health). See <https://www.skynews.com.au/opinion/chris-kenny/sky-news-australia-youtube-suspension-is-cancel-culture-writ-large/video/bcf1b9d4a63ade44c6608f48f676ecaa> . Alarminglly, several journalists from the taxpayer funded Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) publically supported the banning of Sky News.

---CONTINUED---

In the United States, the Biden White House asked Facebook to limit distribution of the Facebook feed of *The Daily Wire* publication (among many other examples of illegal Government-sponsored censorship in the US) . Ref:
<https://www.themainewire.com/2023/08/facebook-files-biden-admin-pressured-company-to-censor-ny-post-daily-wire-vaccine-negative-posts/>

None of this is conducive to democracy or truth.

How many elected representatives or media outlets remain silent under threat of “cancellation”?

So who are the real journalists today? The citizen-journalists.

Many politicians say things that are misleading or even untrue. Once the news media called out politicians for such things but unfortunately most media now uncritically reproduce Government press releases as their “reporting” on various subjects. Thankfully, the role of calling out politicians has been replaced by citizen-journalists in social and other online media who do the job that traditional mainstream media can no longer be bothered doing. They are the ones that call out dis- and misinformation from Government and other sources.

Consequences of questioning the Official Narrative (Government dis- and misinformation)

Questioning the Official Narrative typically results in false claims against the questioner of dis- and misinformation and are met with a variety of ad hominem insults as mentioned earlier.

Beyond insults, State-sponsored violence can also ensue. For example, violence by Victoria Police was shown in numerous viral videos with police engaging with Covid-19 anti-lockup protesters, including police using military armoured personnel carriers, something we once only expected to see in Third World dictatorships.

Note also, Australia and Victoria in particular had the harshest and most totalitarian Covid-19 lockups in the world. In fact scenes of the police action against alleged violations of Covid-19 lockup laws in Australia are “viral” worldwide and regularly used as examples of Covid-19 dystopia.

These acts brought great shame upon Australia and damage to its international reputation.

And what next?

When Government embarks on a course of action such as censorship there is really no limit as to how far they are prepared to go. There will be ever more relentless demands from lobby groups and opposing politicians to have any supposed dis/misinformation unfavourable to their cause suppressed. It will go further than that. Soon Government will be demanding mandatory blocking of various free speech oriented web sites or indeed any web site that doesn't follow the Official Narrative on any matter. It will end up precisely the nightmare scenario of Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four*.

Nineteen Eighty Four was meant to be a warning, not an instruction manual.

Viewpoint of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

The comments from Robert F. Kennedy Jr. about the very things under discussion seem remarkably prescient for what the Australian Government has already done and intends to do:

“Totalitarians Will Always Have a Good Excuse for Infringing Upon Your Freedoms”

“During COVID ... the government established a new precedent, which is that if it has a good enough excuse, the government can now take away all of our freedoms.”

“And guess what?” ... “There is always a good excuse, whether it’s to stop a new disease, the next pandemic, to protect us from misinformation, to prevent domestic terrorism, to stop hate speech, to prosecute a war, or to fight climate change.”

“But all of these reasons can easily turn into pretext,” “Control over the public starts perhaps as a means, but it always becomes an end.”

(Ref: <https://twitter.com/VigilantFox/status/1659735403887206401>)

Banning political figures

Banning political figures from Australia is another form of censorship. For example, Nigel Farage and Donald Trump Jr were recently effectively banned from Australia when their visas were denied until the very last moment, making it impossible to conduct their tour. One of the purposes of their tour was to correct dis- and misinformation told about them and their causes and the Australian Government stopped them doing that.

PART 7 AUSTRALIA DOES HAVE SOME HOPE LEFT

There is hope

And how do we control Government dis- and misinformation? In Federal Parliament, of the 76 Senators; Senators Babet, Roberts, P. Hanson, Rennick, Antic, Canavan are the few who are all well-informed, honest, independent thinkers who have tried to fight against Australian Government dis- and misinformation despite powerful efforts to silence them. They have all fearlessly asked questions of Government Ministers and corporations both inside and outside of Parliament. These Senators should be commended for their commitment to perform their sworn duties and their commitment to the Australian people.

Additional points

- The free flow of information in all its forms is essential for democracy.
- The cure for bad information is good information, for bad speech good speech.
- The risk of misinformation from government is far more dangerous than that from individuals on social media because of Government power to control the media, the view that many people incorrectly have that Government information is true and authoritative and the lack of commitment to freedom of speech of most politicians in the major parties and the bureaucracy.
- Ultimately the government, politicians and the bureaucracy need to realise that they work for the people, not themselves or indeed the United Nations or the World Economic Forum.

In conclusion

Let the Australian people use their intelligence to decide what is true and what isn't, especially as the body deciding, the Australian Government and its agencies and servants can hardly be trusted to tell the truth as I have shown many examples of Australian Government dis- and misinformation. As

Thomas Jefferson said: “*Every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers of the people alone. The people themselves therefore are its only safe depositories.*” Australians lost enough precious freedoms during the Covid-19 lockups, some of the, if not the most draconian in the world, and no Australian Government federal or state has any intentions of returning them. Please don’t take away any more.

******* THE END *******

Submission concerning “New ACMA powers to combat misinformation and disinformation”.

SUPPLEMENTAL SUBMISSION, Date: 18th August 2023

Author: Dr David S. Maddison

* FOR PUBLICATION *

“IN TIMES OF UNIVERSAL DECEIT TELLING THE TRUTH IS A REVOLUTIONARY ACT”

Please note this is a supplemental addition to my main submission.

Quoting from: https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/communications-legislation-amendment-combatting-misinformation-and-disinformation-bill-2023-guidance-note-june2023_2.pdf an example of how supposed misinformation can harm Australians is presented:

Harm to the health of Australians	Misinformation that caused people to ingest or inject bleach products to treat a viral infection
-----------------------------------	--

This seems to be based on a claim falsely attributed to President Trump.

This is extraordinary **misinformation** by the Australian Government about the former US President.

It is false because, as I shall show below: 1) President Trump never said it and 2) there was no known case of anybody actually doing it.

The Government has fabricated something that was never said and never happened in support of this dystopian censorship legislation.

On April 23, 2020 President Trump was in a press conference with William Bryan, the then Undersecretary for Science and Technology at the Department of Homeland Security, who presented a study that stated that coronavirus viral particles that linger on surfaces can be killed by sun exposure and cleaning agents like bleach.

There is nothing whatsoever odd about these comments by Mr Bryan, it is basic biology and ultraviolet light such as is an element of sunlight and cleaning agents such as bleach are used all the time as sterilising agents in hospitals and laboratories.

There was thus a role for such cleaning and sterilising agents in the control of coronavirus. In fact, countless millions or billions of dollars were spent in Australia and elsewhere constantly cleaning and sterilising any surfaces that people may have touched during the pandemic, including street furniture which would naturally be sterilised by sunlight in any case.

Trump, in unprepared off-the-cuff comments, just waxed lyrical about whether such disinfection strategies would have a role in treating people.

He said as follows:

"A question that probably some of you are thinking of if you're totally into that world, which I find to be very interesting. So, supposedly we hit the body with a tremendous, whether it's ultraviolet or just very powerful light, and I think you said that hasn't been checked, but you're going to test it. And then I said supposing you brought the light inside the body, which you can do either through the skin or in some other way. (To Bryan) And I think you said you're going to test that, too. Sounds interesting, right?"

"And then I see the disinfectant, where it knocks it out in one minute. And is there a way we can do something like that, by injection inside or almost a cleaning, because you see it gets in the lungs and it does a tremendous number on the lungs, so it'd be interesting to check that, so that you're going to have to use medical doctors with, but it sounds interesting to me. So, we'll see, **but the whole concept of the light**, the way it kills it in one minute. That's pretty powerful."

After a reporter asked a question he clarified:

"It wouldn't be through injections, almost a cleaning and sterilization of an area. Maybe it works, maybe it doesn't work, but it certainly has a big effect if it's on a stationary object."

At no point did he tell people to inject or ingest bleach.

It so turns out that **ultraviolet light therapy** was something that was scientifically investigated after Trump mentioned it. For example see the reference at:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34173969/>

Adv Ther 2021 Aug;38(8):4556-4568. doi: 10.1007/s12325-021-01830-7. Epub 2021 Jun 26.
"Endotracheal Application of Ultraviolet A Light in Critically Ill Patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2: A First-in-Human Study"

Introduction: Our previous preclinical experiments show that under specific and monitored conditions, ultraviolet A (UVA) exposure reduces certain bacteria, fungi, and viruses including coronavirus-229E without harming mammalian columnar epithelial cells. **Conclusions:** In this first-in-human study, endotracheal narrow-band UVA therapy, under specific and monitored settings, appears to be safe and associated with a reduction in respiratory SARS-CoV-2 viral burden over the treatment period. UVA therapy may provide a novel approach in the fight against COVID-19.

There was no known case of anyone ingesting or injecting bleach

See, for example:

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0287837>

Did people really drink bleach to prevent COVID-19? A guide for protecting survey data against problematic respondents

Overall, we did not find a single respondent who provided any reasonable or compelling open-ended descriptions of ingestion of cleaning products.

This is another example how the Australian Government is a purveyor of misinformation

This is exactly the type of Australian Government misinformation I spoke about in my main submission and why this misinformation legislation must NOT go through because anything contrary to this false but Official Government Narrative would be censored. There would be no one to correct this Government misinformation.