

In reading this bill and guidance notes I have had to stop and shake my head at almost everything I have read. It seems to be the most misguided, Un-Australian and completely foreign bill I have ever seen, with no upsides. For example, in “Table 4: Key examples of what is in scope of the ACMA powers” it states “Unauthorised electoral or referendum content that is disinformation” is in scope.

Who will be in charge of “Authorising” electoral or referendum content? Silencing people at any kind of election or referendum can only lead to an abuse of power and a dictatorship, a truly terrifying thought.

Table 4 also states that “Digital platform services (excluding services in clause 6)” are in scope. This includes search engines, news aggregators, instant messaging services, social media, web-forums, dating sites, online peer-to-peer marketplaces and podcasting services (with an interactive feature).

So, news must be “authorised” to be able to be shared, or it could be classed as disinformation, removing all freedom of speech. Even dating sites.. is the Australian government really so concerned that a women said she was thirty six when she is actually forty, or a man said he was 6 feet tall, when he is really only 5.7.. What kind of place will Australia become with such overreach into peoples personal lives, I shudder to think.

“Table 1: Harms” categorises “Harm” as “Hatred against a group in Australian society on the basis of ethnicity, nationality, race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion or physical or mental disability”.

However people have a god given right to religious freedom, If a Jewish Rabbi was to quote publicly online was is stated in his holy scriptures, such as - Leviticus 18:22 “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination”, Should this be considered “Hate Speech” that causes “Harm” against the homosexual community, thus removing the Rabbi’s right to religious practice and expression?. I can only then see this bill as antisemitic and discriminatory.

I have read this bill and seen no upside. I do not support this bill in any capacity. I see this bill and extremely dangerous and believe it should be scrapped forthwith. I would also like to see where this bill was drafted by the will of the constituents of the commonwealth of Australia. I don't believe it was.

I do not support this bill.

Carl