

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
Committee Inquiry Question on Notice
Environment and Communications
Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2024 [Provisions]

IQ24-000073

Division/Agency: DIV - Digital Platforms Safety and Classification

Hansard Reference: Written (22 October 2024)

Topic: Assessment of serious harms

Karen Grogan asked:

1. Should the bill proceed, how would ACMA assess seriousness of harm? Would it use standardised assessments?
2. What specific criteria would ACMA use to determine what constitutes 'misinformation' and 'disinformation' and how would this criteria be applied consistently? How would the process and the results of that process be communicated to the public?

Answer:

This is matter better directed to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

In practical terms, it will be digital communication platform providers, rather than the ACMA, that will be making these sorts of assessments. Each provider will need to make its own assessments against the legislative provisions.

ACMA, through its information and other powers under the Bill, will be able to obtain information from digital communication platform providers on how providers are applying these assessments. Much of this information will be able to be made available to the public through the transparency and other provisions in the Bill (see e.g. cl 30(5) and cl 38 of the Bill).