

## **Example 1**

I am deeply troubled by the provisions outlined in the Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2024. As a 62-year-old citizen who values freedom of speech and expression, I believe that this bill poses a significant threat to our democratic principles.

The proposed measures, which aim to combat misinformation and disinformation, are far too broad and give the government excessive power to censor what can be shared and discussed online. This can easily be abused to silence dissenting voices and control public discourse. It's quite obvious the government are trying to silence facts and truth of the frauds that are being committed against the public they are ignoring their service contracts and are deliberately going against the people's vote and will, and now they are trying to shut down the people's voice, misinformation is a non-truth and truth doesn't need to be hidden; it exposes the lies, misinformation is just that the facts speak for themselves. It's pretty clear that the government is a private registered company and not the government they pretend to be, it's actually very dishonest and disturbing what levels they have and are going to try to continue to be unlawful and unconstitutional working for shareholders not the public, oh but we can't say the truth, they will call it misinformation!

Furthermore, the lack of clarity in defining what constitutes 'misinformation' and 'disinformation' raises serious concerns about how these terms will be interpreted and enforced. This ambiguity leaves the door wide open for selective censorship and political manipulation.

As a concerned citizen, I urge the committee to recommend that this bill be abandoned. Instead of resorting to heavy-handed censorship, we should focus on promoting media literacy and critical thinking to empower individuals to discern fact from fiction.

It is crucial that we uphold our fundamental rights to freedom of speech and information, and this bill threatens to undermine those rights. I hope that my concerns are taken into consideration as the committee deliberates on this matter.

## **Example 2**

The definitions of misinformation and disinformation are broad and subjective, potentially leading to overly restrictive content moderation. The Bill could suppress conservative, religious, and minority viewpoints on a range of issues. Australian law already lacks protections for freedom of expression, and this Bill would further constrain free speech. Civil penalties against digital platforms might stifle public discourse. Reduced transparency threatens trust in our government and democracy. The Bill grants excessive powers to ACMA and risks government overreach. This law is a threat to peace, prosperity, and freedom. Please discontinue the plan to introduce this Bill.