

Example

To the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications,

I am signing this petition as a submission to the committee regarding the **Combating Misinformation and Disinformation Bill**. This Bill, as it stands, poses a serious threat to **free speech** in Australia, which is a cornerstone of our democracy.

The Importance of Free Speech

Free speech is the foundation upon which open debate and critical thinking thrive. In a democratic society, the right to challenge authority, express dissent, and share diverse viewpoints is essential. Curtailing this right—especially through vague legislation that hands over control of speech—risks silencing the very voices that make democracy robust.

The Risks of Overly Broad Powers

The **Combating Misinformation and Disinformation Bill** grants the government immense power to regulate what is considered “misinformation” or “disinformation.” The definitions provided in the Bill are broad and vague, putting legitimate dissent, criticism, and debate at risk of being silenced. **Free speech** is not meant to be controlled by government agencies or unelected bodies.

This is particularly alarming in the realm of political discourse, where questioning policies or challenging official narratives should not be suppressed. The Bill risks stifling Australians' ability to engage in meaningful debate, which is essential to holding power accountable.

A Threat to Democracy

Democracy thrives when its citizens are free to express opinions, question authority, and debate openly. This Bill, however, seeks to stifle those very freedoms. Once governments can dictate what can and cannot be said, we risk creating a one-sided society, where only approved narratives are allowed, and dissent is punished.

Rather than allowing the government or tech corporations to control speech, the solution to misinformation lies in **critical thinking** and **open debate**. If someone prints or publishes something false, others can call it out as false. **Simple**. The best remedy for misinformation is more speech, not censorship.

Request to Reject the Bill

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Senate Standing Committee recommend that the Senate **reject** the **Combating Misinformation and Disinformation Bill** in its entirety. We must protect the **right to free speech** for all Australians, ensuring that all voices, even those that challenge the status quo, can be heard.

Free speech is the lifeblood of our democracy, and it must be safeguarded at all costs.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Yours sincerely,