

**SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

Dear Committee Chair

**Re: Appearance at Inquiry into the Communications Legislation Amendment  
(Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2024**

I refer to the Hansard Transcript for my appearance on Monday, 11 November 2024.

On page 26, please remove the word “takedown” from the highlighted sentence below.

Monday, 11 November 2024

Senate

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**Senator ROBERTS:** Thank you. Your submission calls for transparency around communication into ACMA from the government. It calls for a transparency register and a set of regulations around transparency in general. Should those be made available before the bill proceeds to a vote?

**Ms Jabri Markwell:** Yes, absolutely. I think transparency is extremely important. We shouldn't be having higher standards for social media companies than we do for our own government. **Our government should be transparent about any takedown requests** or communications that are had with social media companies under this bill, particularly any that impact on freedom of speech. Also, I think it's very important that media be included in the ambit of the bill. If you want to exclude media, a higher threshold should be provided for what constitutes professional media because the current definition that the bill relies upon is too low and effectively excludes a huge chunk of current bad actors who are engaged in spreading misinformation and disinformation about particular communities that has a very painful effect.

I included “takedown” in that particular sentence, which was an error on my part, as the Bill does not include takedown powers.

Yours faithfully,

Rita Jabri Markwell  
Legal advisor