ADVERTISEMENT

ALL AUSTRALIANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH

The Albanese Government's *Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2024* will SILENCE the opinion of mainstream Australians online.

THIS LAW WILL REGULATE WHAT YOU CAN SAY

Institute of Public Affairs' research has established the proposed legislation is:

Unfair – Only mainstream Australians will be censored, but elite institutions, 'experts', and academics are exempt.

Anti-democratic – Unelected officials and discredited 'fact checking' organisations will be put in charge of deciding what is acceptable debate and what is the official 'truth'.

Dangerous – Truth will not be a defence. Mainstream Australians who have their opinion censored online will have no right of appeal.

> ***"I would have the ability as the Minister to direct the ACMA to commence investigations…"***
>
> **Letter from Minister for Communications Michelle Rowland to the Prime Minister, 1 June 2023, pg. 2**

> ***"There is still a risk the proposed powers could be perceived as a form of censorship."***
>
> **Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and Arts, Online misinformation and disinformation reform: Impact analysis, September 2024, pg. 58**

> ***"…intended to include opinions, claims, commentary and invective."***
>
> **Explanatory Memorandum, *Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2024*, 12 September 2024, pg. 44**

Mainstream Australians understand these laws are designed to silence them:

65%

of Australians said they are concerned misinformation laws will be used by government officials for political purposes.*

69%

of Australians said they are concerned misinformation laws will be used by social media companies for political purposes.*

* Data collected from independent research firm Dynata's poll of 1,002 Australians between 11 and 13 October 2024 for the Institute of Public Affairs.

THIS LAW MUST BE REJECTED

Institute of Public Affairs

Institute of Public Affairs' research: John Storey and Morgan Begg, *Canberra's Digital Ministry of Truth*, Institute of Public Affairs, August 2023
John Storey and Morgan Begg, *Institute of Public Affairs Submission to the Inquiry into the Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2024*, September 2024
Authorised by Scott Hargreaves, Executive Director, Institute of Public Affairs, Level 2 410 Collins Street, Melbourne, Australia