

Dear Senators, Dastyari and Ludlam,

I'd like to draw to your attention a recent report that may be of interest to you in light of the Senate Committee hearings that you are chairing into the Future of Public Interest Journalism.

The report – "Media Manipulation and Disinformation Online" by Alice Marwick and Rebecca Lewis – will be useful to consider with regard to the oft-repeated formula of "internet = diversity". Proponents of the proposed policy changes to media ownership in Australia use this formula to claim that consumers do not need a broad-based, institutional media diversity, even though we know that is what supports independent, ethical, investigative journalism.

I do not have an association with the authors however the message of the report is one I support. More information is not always better information and media manipulation by vested interests may undermine confidence in information required to support citizens involvement in their own governance.

All the best for your deliberations.

Regards,
John Tebbutt

Senior Lecturer
School of Media, Film and Journalism
Monash University

<https://datasociety.net/output/media-manipulation-and-disinfo-online/>