

Digital Rights Watch

Written Questions on Notice from Senator Lisa Darmanin

1. Does Digital Rights Watch support the Bill to the extent that, by combatting seriously harmful mis and disinformation, that it protects individual rights and freedoms – such as:
 - a. The right to physical safety;
 - b. the right to be protected against discrimination, enshrined in numerous international human rights instruments; and
 - c. the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, and to vote and be elected at genuine periodic elections?

Response:

Digital Rights Watch supports the bill to the extent that it supports human rights. We believe that mis and disinformation interferes with fundamental human rights and we support regulatory initiatives to combat this. However, we remain concerned that parts of the bill do not adopt a human rights approach, and could be improved by explicit requirements to consider human rights in exercising regulatory powers, and impose stronger limits on interferences with other human rights, such as freedom of expression.