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Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
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Dear Committee Secretary,

There are examples where government organisations have used secrecy to meet their own agendas. The Central Intelligence Agency's "drugs for guns" scheme, used to create profits from cocaine trafficking so that the CIA could fund the Nicaraguan contra rebels is a classic example. Journalist Gary Webb's report about the CIA's involvement was denied for many years. Then in 2004, Webb's death was ruled a suicide, shot twice in the head.

Will the Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2024, 'Kill the Messenger'?

Combatting misinformation and disinformation is a means for the government to get rid of the comments it doesn't like. Would the following speech survive? On the 19 August 2024, [Senator Andrew Bragg in a 15-minute speech in Parliament](#) said, *'The government is involved in corrupt activities and systemic wrongdoing in regards to union funds such as the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union's (CFMEU's) super fund Cbus and the river of gold flowing into the government's coffers. The amount of money that is going from funds into the unions in the last year reached \$40 million in Australian Super fund member's money. Money is being siphoned off to the unions and all their associated lobby groups.'*<sup>1</sup>

What about Senator Gerard Rennick's speech in Parliament, Superannuation is communism - Senate (1.7.24)?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpginGWtuU0>

Australians are herded into superannuation where there is a lack of transparency. For the last decade Victims of Financial Fraud have wrote about the lack of transparency around superannuation. VOFF alleged the Australian Securities and Investments Commission Chairman Mr Greg Medcraft and the Minister of Superannuation Mr Bill Shorten collaborated to mislead the public about the Trio Capital fraud. They spent more effort going after financial adviser Mr Ross Tarrant while ignoring the criminals behind the Trio crime. Mr Medcraft and Mr Shorten interfered with a financial crime, disseminated misinformation and misled the public about the fraud. Out of sight of the public was Mr Shorten's alleged corrupt conduct - see, [Open Letter to Minister for Financial Services Stephen Jones](#). For example, evidence of his bias handling of Trio to benefit the union-led industry super funds was sent to the National Anti-Corruption

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<sup>1</sup> Senator Bragg, Why is the Government silent about CFMEU's super fund Cbus? 19 August 2024  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3m1cRF5g6MA>

Commission. However, the NACC found no corruption [[letter from NACC dated 19 Aug 2024](#)].

Self managed super fund trustees and their financial advisers, like Mr Tarrant, knew in late 90s that Labor benefited from siphoning superannuation money. SMSF trustees also knew that banking superannuation schemes placed clients in the banks' own products where the banks gouged big profits while clients received tiny returns. The Banking Royal Commission highlighted such conduct. The free choice of SMSFs appears to have posed a threat to the Labor Party's rivers of gold. VOFF perceive this prompted Mr Shorten to bombard discrediting remarks at the SMSFs for investing in the Trio Managed Investment Scheme. Only SMSFs copped misleading characterizations and slurs although they were in exactly the same product as the union-led industry funds. It beggars belief the NACC couldn't (wouldn't) find corrupt conduct in the way a crime was politicized so one group benefited by harming another group.

Would the following concern be illegal and protected by the Misinformation and Disinformation Bill?

The [Australian Citizens Party Media Release dated 15 August 2024](#) notes, "The Compensation Scheme of Last Resort (CSLR) was designed not to compensate the hundreds of thousands of financial victims of collapsed managed investment schemes (MIS) since 2008. However according to Peter Johnston, Executive Director of The Association of Independently Owned Financial Professionals (AIOFP) "*several Canberra-based residents and Federal Government Bureaucrats*" compensated themselves over the Dixon Advisory collapse. Mr Johnston referred the "stench of corruption" to the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)."

Would the Misinformation and Disinformation Bill say the following statement upsets consumer confidence in the financial sector?

[Senator Malcolm Roberts recently highlighted alleged control of superannuation](#), that the 3.5 trillion dollar superannuation pool is being used for political agendas and social engineering, rather than meeting the interests of consumers.

Already in the financial sector the lack of transparency outweighs the availability of information. Secrecy outweighs the consumers' right to be well informed. Will the Misinformation and Disinformation Bill benefit the beneficiaries by protecting the money launderers, those who are siphoning, stealing, and misappropriating superannuation monies?

Including protecting the cover-ups and false narratives by financial regulators.

John Telford  
Secretary  
Victims of Financial Fraud