

Inquiry into the Impact of Social Media on Elections and Electoral Administration Survey

Mr Peter Brackstone
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[REDACTED]

Organisation name:

Your position or role:

SURVEY

Q1. Encouraging social media platforms to take more action against inappropriate activities (such as bots, harassment, trolling, spreading fake news).

Response: Very good idea

As newspapers' are regulated, Social Media should also be regulated. Whilst most Social Media channels are not based in Australia, any accessible from here should be subject to regulation and control which meets with the expectation of the Australian public.

Q2. The government funding media literacy campaigns to help people know what they can trust online.

Response: Good idea

The more the public understands the medium, the better.

Q3. Requiring public disclosure of all online political advertising (for example, webpages created by social media platforms showing all of the political advertising on their platform and who paid for it, or webpages created by parties/candidates showing all of the online ads they have run).

Response: Very good idea

All election/political advertising and the source of it's funding should be disclosed and made public.

Q4. Requiring online electoral advertising to state who paid for it.

Response: Very good idea

All election/political advertising and the source of it's funding should be disclosed and made public.

Q5. Government support for independent and trust-worthy organisations that can fact-check claims or identify misinformation.

Response: Very good idea

To increase the integrity of published information, this is a great idea. Too much false news is circulated and can have a detrimental effect on the outcomes of elections.

Q6. Using independent organisations (e.g. the Victorian Electoral Commission) as a source of reliable information about electoral candidates.

Response: Not sure

If VEC is anything like its Qld counterpart, there is not the skill, experience and competency within the organisation to fulfil this need.

Q7. New laws requiring truth in political advertising.

Response: Very good idea
Truth and full disclosure.

Q8. Are there other things you'd like to see the government do relating to social media or online advertising and elections?

Response: During the Local Election in Qld, one candidate redirected other candidates' websites to his own. This was reported but the authority did not have the skill set to investigate. This was an outright misdirection of the voting public and there is no redress or consequence.