

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

Ms Sarah Day

Phone number:

Email:

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

Many people use social media sites as their main source of information and do not always apply a critical eye to the information they consume.

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

Response: Very good idea

Many people use social media sites as their main source of information and do not always apply a critical eye to the information they consume.

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

Transparency in government is vital in the public being able to trust the credibility of the messages they are receiving

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

Response: Very good idea

Transparency in government is vital in the public being able to trust the credibility of the messages they are receiving

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

Response: Very good idea

The role of fact-checking claims and identity information is vital for a transparent, healthy democracy. Any organisation who does this work needs to be independent, transparent, accountable etc, so needs to be funded sufficiently to do the work without needing private donations. So long as the link between the organisation and the current government is clear and transparent, including an ability to be critical of the current government if needed, it makes sense for this type of organisation to be government funded.

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

Response: Good idea

To encourage non-bias in the information being presented

Q7. New laws requiring truth in political advertising.

Response: Very good idea

It is unfortunate that this needs to be legislated, however so much about political advertising involves schoolyard name calling antics, and uses deception to score political points. This is unhealthy and unhelpful and often leads to people focussing on what someone else is or isn't doing, rather than what they intend to do.

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

Response: