

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

Mrs Jeanette Goff

Phone number: [REDACTED]

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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

I think allowing inappropriate messaging, trolling, spreading fake news is destroying the fabric of a decent functioning society. I do not believe the action should be left up to the social media companies, these restrictions should be legislated.

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

Response: Not sure

Many untrusted sources infiltrate social media, If the information could be guaranteed, in bite size information it may be effective.

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

Any type of political advertising, including opinions, sponsorships, subsidies, should be made known of the bias.

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

Response: Very good idea

Knowledge of the company, directors, who funded it, and if the party is a significant donor to the political party.

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

Response: Very good idea

I believe universities that declare their independence is most important.

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

Response: Very good idea

As long as the VEC has independent associations, not reliant on funding from governments. This is good governance.

Q7. New laws requiring truth in political advertising.

Response: Very good idea

Truth according to who? how will the truth be determined. What are the consequences and penalties of not telling the truth? There is no point in supporting the idea of truth if there are no consequences in presenting untruths.

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

Response: Social media has been identified as a large source of news and information for younger groups. Many people rely on this as the truth. Regulations for journalist should be imposed on all who use social media and TV, print, opinion.