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

Mr Perrin Hoyle
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
Misinformation is rife on social media and whilst it's affect on those who understand that it happens is minimal. Facebook in particular now has a significantly older primary demographic of people less likely to understand and fall victim to the lies.

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

Response: Very good idea
So long as the education is purely based around how to identify "fake news" from legitimate sources.

However the concept of the government being the ones who classify what is legitimate and illegitimate in media sounds like it could be the start of a slippery slope. An independent 3rd party would be a better option for the administration of this government funded training

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
No online presence of a political party or supporters of that party should go unbranded with the party's logo

It also assists in determining who the mp's for local areas represent from the larger parties and gives a better idea of the ideals and ideologies behind their messages

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

Response: Very good idea
It should be more clear than the small black screen of text at the end too, it should require a party watermark displayed for the entirety of the ad.

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

Response: Very good idea
These organisations help keep politicians honest (which we all know is usually impossible) in the public space and help those less media inclined get a more rounded view than just that of the particular side of politics they engage with

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

Response: Good idea
So long as it can be proven regularly that there has been no bias effecting the information and data. There would need to be a secondary independent bias checker to maintain this as well

Q7. New laws requiring truth in political advertising.

Response: Very good idea
Both laws and punishments around breaking of political advertising laws should be more severe.

It has already been shown that due to the wealth of these parties and those that support them that money or financial disincentives are not thorough enough to ensure the laws are followed currently. Stricter and more clear laws should be brought in and enforced and more sever punishments should include the loss of ability to receive votes if it can be proven that the party or member has been deliberately dishonest or has pushed false narratives to boost their position within the period leading up to voting

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

Response: Enforce open and easily visible statements of bias to all digital and physical Australian media. In particular Newscorp and the Murdoch empire. Well known as not only a heavily right wing organisation but actively uses their position to forward a political agenda. All Their content should be either visibly branded as such or banned from publication until they can reach a level of even bias decided upon by a separate party