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Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
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Australian

Academy of
Science

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The Australian Academy of Science (the Academy) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Environment and Communications Reference Committee inquiry into media diversity in Australia.

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these platforms as their primary source of information.⁵ Troll bots on platforms like Twitter have been used to deliberately promote disinformation related to science including climate change, vaccination and flat earthism.⁴ This creates a barrier to Australians being able to access reliable and accurate news, with

program equips Australian women who work as scientists and technologists with advanced communications skills and opportunities to use these skills.

Internationally, the International Science Council in partnership with the Australian Academy of Science has recently launched Global Science TV, which aims to mobilise the knowledge and resources of their global science community in order to entertain and inform viewers on different science issues.

Trusted sources of information

While the solutions to the problems of misinformation and disinformation are contested, there is no doubt that the current situation cannot be tolerated. The current state of the media in Australia, and the impact of social media, is being felt in the scientific community. While scientific institutions and universities must, and can, do their part to better inform the public, the media and communications industry, as well as social media companies, have a responsibility to learn and avoid the mistakes of the past.

The Academy is prepared to be part of a solution, with the capability to advise on best practice relating to timely and accurate science information. The Academy is willing to provide training or leadership with media and social media producers based on our experience providing accessible, entertaining and peer reviewed science. We are willing to collaborate with media outlets to review and improve the accuracy of their science communication in a timely manner. As an independent, authoritative and influential organisation, we are ideally placed to be part of creating a solution to the problems we face now and into the future.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this submission, please contact Mr Christopher Anderson, Director of Policy, Australian Academy of Science (chris.anderson@science.org.au).

Yours sincerely,

Professor John Shine AC PresAA FRS

The Australian Academy of Science

