

STATEMENT IN FULL BY KRISTINA KENEALLY, SHADOW MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS

The genuine confusion, insecurity and anxiety caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has created a permissive space for far-right groups to exploit by spreading disinformation to create more chaos and disunity.

Australia's poor vaccine rollout, lack of an effective national vaccine public information campaign, and disinformation spread by Morrison Government Senators and MPs is only serving to expand that permissive space.

Elements of the far right also espouse extreme misogynistic, Islamophobic, homophobic, anti-Semitic and racist views.

Those in the Government who give credence to COVID disinformation have been celebrated in far-right and ultra-nationalist social media groups. As a result, extreme views are given credibility and a sense of respectability as they have been taken from a social media echo chamber to the floor of parliament.

Mr Morrison's continued failure to call out his own MPs who disseminate disinformation along with his failure to proscribe extreme right-wing groups as terrorist organisations, is another example of too little too late from a Prime Minister who doesn't "hold a hose, mate" and doesn't step up to take any responsibility for anything.