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Silencing Dissent

Community concern has been aroused following the release of an Australia Institute report, *Silencing Dissent: non government organisations and Australian democracy*, which paints a disturbing picture of the limits on public debate.

The report begins with an account of the important role played by NGOs in public debate in Australia and presents the outcomes of a survey of 290 NGOs. Alarming, 92 per cent do not believe that individuals and organisations that dissent from current government policy are valued by the government as a part of a robust democracy.

MHCC is alarmed at results that show 90 per cent of respondents believe that dissenting organisations and individuals risk having their government funding cut.

The report, titled "Silencing Dissent: Non-government organisations and Australian democracy", can be downloaded by going to 'What's New' on The Australia Institute website -- www.tai.org.au