

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 2 JUNE 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Social Media – Inappropriate Use by Staff

Question reference number: HS 10

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Hansard page 72

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 22 July 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FIFIELD: DHS staff would, as a matter of course, I guess, be issued with guidelines in relation to the appropriate use of social media at the workplace?

Ms Campbell: Yes.

Senator FIFIELD: Have any staff been disciplined as a result of inappropriate use of social media such as Facebook or Twitter?

Ms Briggs: Not that I am aware of, no.

Senator FIFIELD: If you could take on notice if there have been.

Ms Briggs: Of course.

Answer:

Yes. Code of Conduct action has been taken in relation to the inappropriate use of social media against four staff members, with the following outcomes:

- one employee resigned before action was finalised;
- one employee has had a reduction in classification;
- one employee has had a five per cent reduction in salary imposed for 12 months;
and
- one employee was issued with a reprimand.