

Tabled by Kinnishe,
Coonan, 24/5/07

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Senator Coonan:

"I am advised that the Parliamentary Computing Network is maintained by the Department of Parliamentary Services for a variety of categories of users at Parliament House and other sites (principally electorate offices).

Users are:

- Senators and Members of the House of Representatives;
- Their staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*;
- Employees of the three parliamentary departments, employed under the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*;
- Volunteers working in Senators' or Members' offices, expressly authorised by the relevant Senator or Member; and
- Certain relevant staff of the Department of Finance and Administration.

Content filtering policies are in place for all staff of the three parliamentary departments (with special exceptions for certain Parliamentary Library staff working on specific research tasks, for which protocols are established), similar to filtering policies which operate in Government departments.

The then Presiding Officers some years ago determined that content filtering software would not apply to the computers used by Senators or Members, or their MOP(S) Act staff.

Any Senator or Member is able to make an approach to the Presiding Officers for that policy to be reconsidered."

You will appreciate that government policies do not automatically apply to the Parliament, unless the President and Speaker, or the relevant House, so determines.