

# Senate Standing Committee on Economics

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Treasury Portfolio

### Additional Estimates

23 – 24 February 2011

Question: AET 83

Topic: Social Media

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

Has the department instituted any changes to policies or protocols since last estimates that restrict or deny staff the use of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs? If yes, please explain what changes have been put in place. Why were these changes put in place?

Are staff utilising these sites during work hours? If yes, how many hours are spent on these sites? What time these sites are most accessed

Will measures be introduced to restrict access to these sites?

Answer:

The Treasury has not instituted any changes to social media policies or protocols since last estimates.

All Treasury employees agree to abide by the official guidelines for the use of the Treasury network. Treasury employees working with online media are subject also to departmental guidelines on personal responsibilities, how the use of these media is related to other Treasury policies as well as the standards of behaviour set out in the APS Values and APS Code of Conduct.

The department already has in place a number of measures with regards to social media. These include the use of a third party software application to block websites according to how they are categorised by the third party provider. These include:

- Chatrooms
- Dating Sites
- Internet Email Sites
- Music Downloads

Some of the websites blocked include YouTube, Facebook and MySpace. Other online sites, for example Twitter, have been approved for use to allow Treasury employees to access for official purposes.

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The Treasury will continue to monitor and review its social media policies and protocols in line with usual business practice.