

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

**Question: AET 637**

**Topic: Social Media (ACCC)**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

637. Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and useage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online?
- a. If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue.
  - b. If no, please explain why not.

**Answer:**

637. Yes, the ACCC has changed its policy concerning staff access and usage of social media since publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1 in January 2012.
- a. In line with Circular 2012/1, the policy covers appropriate use of social media by staff in both professional and private capacities. Changes to the ACCC's policy include the following:
    - all business use of social media must be approved
    - Youtube may be accessed for business use
    - Facebook and Twitter may be accessed for business use
    - Facebook and Twitter may be accessed for personal use, provided this use is 'brief and incidental'.

A copy of the ACCC's social media policy is provided at [Attachment 1](#).