

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

Question: AET 643

Topic: Social Media (ATO)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator BUSHBY asked:

643. Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and usage 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:

No, however an education campaign on the topic is underway, starting with an article to be published in the ATO Corporate newsletter (News Extra) to raise awareness of Circular 2012/1 and to educate staff about appropriate online behaviour as an Australian Public Servant.

The ATO Security Committee is reviewing and analysing the risk of staff participating in social media activities and online participation when using ATO IT facilities. Current ATO policies cover access restrictions to social media sites from ATO IT facilities, as follows:

- Facebook - blocked [no access provided]
- Twitter - coached [staff are asked to confirm whether their access to a site is appropriate before continuing]
- YouTube - coached [staff are asked to confirm whether their access to a site is appropriate before continuing]
- MySpace - blocked [no access provided]

Circular 2012/1 will also influence the development of the ATO digital media corporate management practice statement and corporate management procedure and instructions. The ATO continues to maintain the following policies to manage staff use of social media:

- APS Values and Code of Conduct
- ATO Proper use of IT facilities Corporate Management Practice Statement (internal guidelines for ATO staff)
- ATO social media guidelines

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- ATO digital media corporate management practice statement and corporate management procedure and instructions, which are currently under development and will replace existing social media guidelines, and
- ATO online forum and blog guidelines covering official and unofficial use, which are currently under development.