

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

**Question: AET 1562-1564**

**Topic: Social Media Policy**

**Written: 6 March 2014**

**Senator WONG asked:**

1562. Have there been any changes to department/agency social media protocols relating to staff access and usage of YouTube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since the February 2013 Additional Budget Estimates? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issued.
1563. Does the department/agency monitor usage of social media?
- a) If yes, provide details of the usage (for example details could include average hours per employee hours when usage peaks).
  - b) Has there been a change to the department/agency protocols due to staff usage?
  - c) If no, why not? Will the department/agency monitor usage in the future?
1564. Does social media impact on employee productivity? Provide details (details could include increased internet usage in general or increased internet usage in standard business hours)

**Answer:**

1562. No
1563. Individual managers are responsible for ensuring internet and social media usage by ABS staff is appropriate and not excessive.
- a) To provide such details would be an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
  - b) No
  - c) N/A
1564. The ABS does not believe that social media has an adverse impact on employee productivity.