

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13  
28 and 29 May 2012

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

**TOPIC:** Social Media

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Bushby

**QUESTION No.:** BI-188

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? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue. If no, please explain why not.

**ANSWER**

**DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION**

There was no change to social media access and usage protocols within the department as a direct response to the release of the Australian Public Service Commission's (APSC) circular. The circular closely aligned with the department's existing policies for governing the use of social media. The Department would incorporate any additional guidance into its social media policies in due course. Changes to departmental policy on social media access and usage protocols that reference Chapter 15 of the APSC Code of Conduct: *APS Values and Code of Conduct in Practice* — 'APS employees as citizens' are currently under consideration.

**AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ARC)**

There has been no change to the social media access and usage protocols for staff at the ARC.

The ARC's Social Media Policy, finalised in September 2011, is assessed as sufficiently outlining the general requirements for official, professional and personal use of social media.

**AUSTRALIAN SKILLS QUALITY AUTHORITY (ASQA)**

ASQA has a social media usage protocol and has as yet not undergone any revision following the release of the APSC's circular.

A revision of ASQA's social media access and usage protocols are planned for late 2012 as one of the outcomes of the *'Revised External Communications Strategy'*.

## **IP AUSTRALIA**

There have been no changes to the access and usage protocols for staff at IP Australia.

IP Australia is currently reviewing its Electronic Media Use Policy, which already includes general requirements for official, professional and personal use of social media and appropriate use of ICT resources in the workplace.

## **TERTIARY EDUCATION QUALITY AND STANDARDS AGENCY (TEQSA)**

TEQSA created its first public comment policy in March 2012. The policy is consistent with the APSC's Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online.