

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0828_13

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No. EW0458_13.

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Social Media

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 May 2012 Budget Estimates? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue. Does the department/agency monitor usage of social media? • If yes, provide details of the useage (for example details could include average hours per employee, hours when useage peaks). •Has there been a change to the department/agency protocols due to staff useage? •If no, why not? Will the department/agency monitor useage in the future? 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

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

There have been no changes to DEEWR's social media policy or protocols. Please refer to previously provided answer to previous DEEWR Question No. EW0458_13.

In relation to monitoring, DEEWR does not monitor the use of social media given the policies and protocols in place.

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)

There have been no changes in ACARA's protocols or policy. ACARA's Code of Conduct regulates use of ACARA resources, requiring proper and efficient use of ACARA resources (allowing for reasonable personal use of IT systems) and requires staff to behave in a professional manner at all times.

ACARA does not monitor usage of social media and does not intend to monitor use in future.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)

There have not been any changes in AITSL's protocol or policy. AITSL's policies are extensive in delivering protocols for staff access and usage of online social media forums in a professional and private capacity.

AITSL does not monitor use of social media and does not intend to monitor use in the future.

Comcare

There has been no change to Comcare's current policy.

Comcare ICT monitors basic usage on a monthly basis for social media sites. The average usage per employee is 8.9 megabytes per month. Social media sites and restricted access to YouTube are available to Comcare employees for limited personal use, but mainly for work-related purposes including enhancing the online presence of Comcare and downloading and implementing training material for the use of agencies. There has been no negative impact to productivity. Usage reports on the current infrastructure determined that staff usage is within acceptable limits and in accordance with the agency policy framework.

Fair Work Building & Construction (FWBC)

There have not been any changes to FWBC's protocol or policy. FWBC's Social Media and IT policies are extensive in delivering DEEWR's protocols for staff access and usage of online social media forums in a professional and private capacity.

FWBC does not monitor use of social media and does not intend to monitor use in the future.

Fair Work Commission (FWC)

There have been no changes to FWC's social media policy. FWC allows use of Social Media in an employee's professional and private capacity, provided the employee adheres to APS and FWC values and professional standards.

FWC does not monitor the use of social media but may do so in the future. FWC can make no comment about the impact of social media on employee productivity.

Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO)

There have been no changes to FWO's protocol or policy.

The FWO does not monitor use of social media and, at this stage, does not intend to monitor use in the future.

Safe Work Australia (SWA)

SWA refers directly to DEEWR's Social Media and IT policies as their IT environment is delivered by DEEWR under a Memorandum of Understanding. These policies are extensive in delivering the protocols for staff access and usage of online social media forums in a private capacity. SWA is currently drafting a policy for the professional use of social media. This policy is expected to be in place by 30 June 2013.

SWA does not monitor staff use of social media and does not intend to monitor use in the future.