

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2012

## Answers to Questions on Notice

### Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: IT Security, internet filtering

Question: 48

Hansard reference F&PA p.15, 13 February 2012

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012**

**Senator LUDLAM:** I should hope not. This was a bit before my time, so could you table for me some statement of reasoning as to why the Senate has decided to do this to itself, with 35 million sites.

**Mr Kenny:** I can provide you with a summary of what the software does. I do not think it is appropriate for me to provide you with an answer to your first question.

#### Answer

The DPS internet filter applies three layers of filtering as follows.

- (a) All users are blocked from visiting known suspicious sites.
  - (i) This domain list is managed and maintained by the security software vendor and updated on a daily basis to keep it current.
  - (ii) Users cannot “opt” out of this filtering, as it directly filters known malicious sites.
- (b) All web traffic is scanned by Antivirus and Antispyware software.
  - (i) This is used to stop virus and spyware downloads and related activity.
  - (ii) The Antivirus and Antispyware list is managed and maintained by the security software vendor and updated on a daily basis to keep it current.
  - (iii) Users cannot “opt” out of this filtering as it directly filters known malicious code.
- (c) Users are filtered/blocked from accessing sites containing particular types of content. The broad categories include: Adult, Weapons, Games; violence/hate/racism; illegal drugs; and sites that promote/facilitate hacking etc.
  - (i) The categorisation of domains is maintained by the security software vendor and updated on a daily basis to keep it current.
  - (ii) DPS applies some automated intelligent analysis on the blocked categories to verify they are as reported and not unnecessarily being blocked.
  - (iii) Senators have the option of “opting” out of all or some of this filtering/blocking.