

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2010

Outcome General, Program General

Topic: Social Media

Question reference number: F71

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

Number of Pages: 2

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) By allowing Finance employees access to these social media websites at work and during work hours, has work productivity improved or decreased? Please explain.
- b) Please provide a copy of any social media policy your Department adheres to. Include any APS wide policy and Department only policy, including any policies that are specific to Finance business areas.
- c) Do these guidelines apply to all Finance employees, including SES, officers on secondment, officers on overseas postings, officers on leave, officers on leave without pay and departmental liaison officers?
- d) Are there plans for other agencies under the Finance and Deregulation portfolio to also have access to social media like the Department of Finance and Deregulation?
- e) Does the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Deregulation's own Twitter profile comply with the Department's social media policy/guidelines? As of 20 October 2010 his profile states 'I am the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Deregulation' yet has no disclaimer that any views expressed are his own or that of the Department is this appropriate? We note that no views have been expressed to date however what will happen in the future if Mr Tune does decide to make entries on his account?
- f) Are Finance employees required to have a disclaimer on their social media website profile that any views they express are their own and not those of the Department? Is this enforced? Please provide details.
 - i. At Supplementary Budget Estimates examples were detailed where Finance had not had this disclaimer. Did that breach any guidelines? Please explain. Was disciplinary action taken? Please explain.
 - ii. Since Supplementary Budget Estimates has advice been given to the Department or any part of the Department about putting disclaimers on social media website profiles?

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Answer:

- a) The Department does not measure the productivity impact on the basis of access to specific sites.
- b) Finance's Acceptable Usage ICT policy is consistent with the APS wide policy, which can be found at the Australian Public Service Commission's website.
- c) Yes.
- d) Agencies within the Finance portfolio are responsible for their own business decisions.
- e) Yes.
- f) Finance staff must observe all relevant policies and guidelines when accessing social media. The department's Acceptable Usage ICT policy provides guidance on the use of social media sites.
 - i. There was no breach of the guidelines.
 - ii. No.