

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: F77

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) Has there been an increase in the Department's internet usage since access was allowed to social media websites? Please provide details and usage information over the last three years.
- b) Do you think that some Finance employees are taking advantage of the access to social media websites and spending more time on the internet during work hours for personal reasons? Please provide details. How can you monitor this?
- c) If a Finance employee spends a significant amount of time publishing personal information on a social media website, does this count towards their work hours for the day?

Answer:

- a) It is not possible to gauge the specific impact of social media because there have been significant increases in other needs for internet bandwidth over the three year period.

Finance increased its bandwidth capacity from 6 megabits per second (Mb/s) to 12 Mb/s in February 2010.

Finance increased its bandwidth capacity from 12 Mb/s to 18Mb/s in August 2010 to accommodate increases in volumes of downloads of specific business applications.

- b) Finance does not monitor the hours spent by staff on social media sites.
- c) Excessive personal use of social media sites during work hours is not permitted under the Department's Acceptable Usage ICT policy. Personal use is allowed providing it is incidental to formal duties.