

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010

Question: PM96

Asked By: Senator Abetz

Topic: Social Media

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

- a) **Has the department instituted any policies or protocols that restrict or deny staff the use of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs? If yes, please explain what restrictions have been put in place. Why were these restrictions put in place?**
- b) **IF NO: Why not? (for example there may be legitimate reasons for some staff to access these sites for legitimate purposes).**
- c) **Are staff utilising these sites during work hours? If yes, how many hours are spent on these sites? What time are these sites most accessed (i.e. lunch time?).**
- d) **Will measures be introduced to restrict access to these sites?**

Answer:

a-c)

PM&C has instituted a social media policy that allows its users to access most of the popular social media sites. Blogs and forums that deal with illegal, hacking or tasteless material are not accessible in accordance with the Department's internet content filtering policies. Restrictions on content are in place to protect the PM&C network from potentially malicious code, protect PM&C users from illegal activity, and to prevent misuse of the system.

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d)

PM&C IT Security monitors users' access of social media systems. PM&C reserves the right to review and change its security policies at any time.