

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**[SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010-2011]**

[Portfolio of the Prime Minister and Cabinet]

**Department/Agency:** Australian Institute of Family Studies  
**Outcome/Output Group:** Australian Institute of Family Studies  
**Topic:** Social Media

**Senator:** Abetz

**Question reference number:** 96

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

- 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?

**Answers:**

- a) AIFS has adapted and circulated the guidelines for online usage developed by the Department of Finance and Deregulation and the Australian Public Service Commission to advise staff of expectations of conduct and behaviour online. AIFS staff have contributed to online discussion forums, and AIFS has its own online mediums for dissemination of its research. The Government's recent response to the report of the [\*Government 2.0 Taskforce\*](#) endorses Recommendation 4 which states that *"the taskforce agrees that, consistent with APS values and code of conduct, APS employees should be actively encouraged and empowered to engage online."*
- b) N/A
- c) Yes  
AIFS disseminates research findings using websites, Facebook and Twitter. Staff who have been authorised to post information using the AIFS social media channels spend between 1 and 2 hours per week in total.  
Authorised posts to AIFS Facebook or Twitter accounts may occur at any time during the day but most often in the morning when new publications are released.
- d) It is not anticipated that AIFS will restrict access to these sites. AIFS will continue to reassess this periodically.