

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance and Deregulation

**Outcome/Program:** 3/3.1

**Topic:** iPhone and iPads connecting to the Parliamentary network

**Senator:** Polley

**Question reference number:** F41

**Type of question:** Hansard F&PA Committee, page 72, 18 October 2011

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 2 December 2011

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:** Can you just clarify then why Apple iPhones can now be connected to the parliamentary system—as can iPads—if there is a concern about security? If the iPhone or iPad is purchased by the individual senator or member, it can be connected—but it is not something your department will consider as part of a future rollout?

**Answer:**

The Department of Parliamentary Services has advised that it provides network connectivity for Apple iPhones and iPads via a wireless network which is physically separate to the Parliamentary Computing Network. This network allows access to the internet and by using 'push' technology, emails can be directed to a Senator or Member's iPhone/iPad.

The security guidelines and advice issued by the Defence Signals Directorate (DSD) in respect of Australian official communications and information systems apply to equipment provided to Senators and Members under entitlement. DSD has not yet included the Apple iPhone on its Evaluated Products List (EPL). Apple iPhones will not be issued to Senators and Members under entitlement unless and until DSD include the Apple iPhone on the EPL.

Since 1 September 2011, the Presiding Officers have been authorised to set electorate office information technology entitlements for Senators and Members on behalf of the Special Minister of State. This could include the provision of tablet devices, such as the Apple iPad.