

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

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission
Outcome/Program: Cross Portfolio
Topic: Social Media

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: 139

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question: Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and useage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since May 2011? Please explain.

Answer: There has been no change to social media access and policies since May 2011.

The Commission's current IT Facilities Users' policy provides that access to social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter, or maintaining or contributing to a Blog or a Bulletin Board, is subject to the same requirements as all other personal use i.e. it must be limited, reasonable and not improper.

The Commission has developed guidance (Circular 2009/6 - Protocols for online media participation) for APS employees participating in professional conversations online. This guidance assists APS employees to understand the practical application of the APS Values and Code of Conduct in both common and unusual circumstances.