

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Portfolio

Question No. 92

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2012:

Social Media

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 publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue. If no, please explain why not.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Since the publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's '*Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online*' on 13 January 2012, the Attorney-General's Department and the following Agencies have not made changes to their social media policy because they either deemed it unnecessary to change their existing policy or they are considering reviewing their policy in the near future: Administrative Appeals Tribunal, Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity, Australian Crime Commission, Australian Federal Police, Australian Government Solicitor, Australian Human Rights Commission, Australian Institute of Criminology, Australian Law Reform Commission, Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre, Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, Family Court of Australia, Federal Magistrates Court of Australia, High Court of Australia, Office of the Information Commissioner and Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

See below for other Agencies' responses.

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Customs and Border Protection issued the Instructions and Guidelines *Responsible Use of Online Social Media and Online Social Networking Services* on 18 January 2012. This Instructions and Guidelines was prepared prior to the release of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1, and therefore references the now outdated Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2009/6.

A copy of the Instructions and Guidelines is attached.

CrimTrac

CrimTrac's Social Networking Policy was updated in January 2012 following the publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1.

The policy was amended to ensure compliance with the Circular and includes a hyperlink to the APSC Social Media Guidance.

The Social Networking Policy was circulated to all CrimTrac staff on 20 January 2012, by e-mail.

Federal Court of Australia

No. However, The Federal Court introduced an Information Technology Policy in February 2012 addressing online social media which reflected the Federal Court's practice in this area and which is consistent with the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1.

Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia (ITSA)

ITSA released an update to its acceptable ICT use policy on 31 January 2012. The Policy states:

1. Internet usage

You may, as long as it does not impact your work:

- perform personal online banking
- other short personal use that does not breach this policy.

You must not use ITSA ICT resources at work to:

- access online media streaming sites (eg radio, music and video broadcasts) unless they are work-related
- create and post to personal blogs
- creating personal web pages
- conduct a private online business (including dealing on eBay or similar sites, or share trading).

National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT)

No changes have been made, but on 31 January 2012 an announcement was published on the NNTT's intranet to bring the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1 to employees' attention.

The announcement set out the key aims of the circular and included a hyperlink to the circular on the APSC homepage. In addition the announcement included advice on the NNTT's plan to develop a social media policy, to be available by the third quarter of the year, which will provide guidance and support for staff on how to use and communicate appropriately in such forums, in professional or personal capacities.