

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

Portfolio

Question No. 141

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 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:

Administrative Appeals Tribunal

There has been no change to the Tribunal's social media policy since 14 February 2012. However, the Tribunal's revised policy relating to internet and email use including social media is expected to be issued in the coming months.

Attorney-General's Department

The Attorney-General's Department released the AGD Social Media Policy on 8 June 2012. The Policy is at Attachment A.

Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity

The Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity has not made any changes to social media policy since 14 February 2012.

Australian Crime Commission

The Australian Crime Commission has made no change to its social media policy since 14 February 2012.

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

As of 8 June 2012, Customs and Border Protection has established an official presence on Twitter, Flickr and YouTube. Staff access is limited to 10 individuals within the Communication and Media team.

Attached documents include the Instructions and Guidelines Responsible Use of Online Social Media and Online Social Networking Services (Attachment B), Social Media Trial Strategy (Attachment C), Social Media Guidelines (Attachment D), draft Digital and Online Content Governance Practice Statement (Attachment E) and draft Publishing Using Social Media Instructions and Guidelines (Attachment F).

Australian Federal Police

The Australian Federal Police has made no change to its social media policy since 14 February 2012.

Australian Government Solicitor

As AGS is a government business enterprise operating on a commercial and competitive basis in providing legal and related services to government and its agencies, it is not subject to the *Public Service Act 1999* and its employees are not Australian Public Service (APS) employees. AGS employees are subject to AGS's Code of Conduct and a range of supporting policies that guide employees in the high professional and ethical standards required of them. AGS is currently reviewing its social media usage policy taking into account Australian Public Service Commission Circular 2012/1 and other relevant material.

Australian Human Rights Commission

There has been no change to the Australian Human Rights Commission Social Media Policy since 14 February 2012.

The Australian Human Rights Commission's existing policies regarding public comment by employees and social media policy are already in line with the guidelines published in circular 2012/1.

Australian Institute of Criminology

No. The APSC Circular did not provide any real change to the expectation and direction given to staff on providing public comments. The APSC Circular provided to staff after its release as a reminder of staff responsibilities under the APS Values and Code of Conduct with respect to making public comment.

Australian Law Reform Commission

There have been no changes in social media policy since 14 February 2012. The ALRC's current policy complies with the requirements of the APS guidance.

Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation

There have been no changes to ASIO's social media or protocols about staff access and usage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs. For security reasons, it would not be appropriate to publicly discuss specific elements of ASIO's policies and procedures.

Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre

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', AUSTRAC has not made changes to social media policy.

Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions

No, the CDPP is currently reviewing the application of APSC Circular 2012/1.

CrimTrac

There has not been any change to CrimTrac's social media policy since 14 February 2012.

CrimTrac's Social Networking Policy was updated in January 2012 following 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.

Family Court of Australia

The Family Court of Australia has introduced a social media policy. See Attachment G.

Federal Court

No, there have been no changes to the agency social media or protocols about staff access and usage 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. 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.

Federal Magistrates Court of Australia

The Federal Magistrates Court of Australia has introduced a social media policy. See Attachment G.

High Court of Australia

There have been no changes to the High Court of Australia's social media or protocols about staff access and usage of YouTube; online social media and access to online discussion forums and blogs since 14 February 2012.

The Court is currently developing a policy which will provide guidance to staff on the use of social media.

Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia

There has been no change to ITSA's social media or staff protocols. However, to improve staff awareness, ITSA released an *Online personal media use by ITSA staff* policy on 26 April 2012. The policy covers online media participation by ITSA employees; social media protocols and guidance regarding participation online.

National Native Title Tribunal

The NNTT advises that it has drafted an *Acceptable Use of Social Media Policy*, which will be finalised and implemented in the third quarter of the year.

Office of Parliamentary Council

There has been no change to Office of Parliamentary Counsel's social media policy since 14 February 2012.

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

No. The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner is in the early stages of using online social media services and plans to develop protocols in the future.