

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-088

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: Social Media

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Boyce

Question:

- a) Does the department/agency monitor usage of social media?
- b) If yes, provide details of the useage (for example details could include average hours per employee, hours when useage peaks).
- c) Has there been a change to the department/agency protocols due to staff useage?
- d) If no, why not? Will the department/agency monitor useage in the future?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health and Ageing logs and filters internet usage by staff (including social media). Given the many appropriate uses of social media and the internet, there is no routine reporting of this data. The Department interrogates this data only when the need for a specific investigation becomes apparent.
- b) Not applicable.
- c) No changes have been made to the Department's social medial protocols since the October 2012 Budget Estimates. These protocols are consistent with the Australian Public Service Commission's (APSC) Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online. Social media guidelines are available to staff to guide them in the appropriate use of social media in the workplace.
- d) Given the many appropriate uses of social media and the internet, there is no routine monitoring and reporting of usage. The Department has the facility to report on usage when the need for a specific investigation becomes apparent.