

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 29 MAY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Social Media

Question reference number: HS 75

Senator: McKenzie

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 27 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) Have there been any changes to department and 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?
- b) If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issued.
- c) If no, please explain why not.

Answer:

- a) There has been no change in protocols in relation to staff access and usage of YouTube, online social media (such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter) and online discussion forums and blogs since publication of the Australian Public Service Commissioner's Circular 2012/1.
The department released a Social Media Policy on 20 April 2011. It provides guidelines for staff on use of social media and making public comment online. The department's policy reflects the principles outlined in Circular 2012/1. The department undertook renewed promotion of its policy in February 2012. In addition, the department has a separate policy on making public comment, which also references social media.
- b) Not applicable.
- c) Staff only have access to these social media platforms through the human services network if it is required for work purposes. A small team is responsible for monitoring and managing the department's social media presence. These staff have access to social media as part of this role.