

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 322

Topic: Social Media

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Does the department/agency monitor usage of social media? If yes, provide details of the usage (for example details could include average hours per employee, hours when usage peaks). If no, will the department/agency monitor usage in the future?

Answer:

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

FaHCSIA does not actively monitor usage of social media sites, but the Department records all access to approved internet sites as part of its security logging activities.

FaHCSIA will continue to assess the use of social media websites, and depending on the outcome of such assessments, may increase its monitoring activities where required.

Portfolio bodies

Aboriginal Hostels Limited

Aboriginal Hostels Limited does not monitor the usage of social media as these sites are blocked and regarded as non-essential to business.

Anindilyakwa Land Council

Anindilyakwa Land Council does not monitor usage of social media by staff and has no plans or available resources to do so at this stage.

Australian Institute of Family Studies

The Australian Institute of Family Studies does not actively monitor usage of social media.

The Institute will continue to assess the use of social media via agency computers and, depending on the outcome of such assessments, may increase its monitoring activities if required.

Central Land Council

The Central Land Council uses Symantec (Message Labs) software to block staff access to social media sites, except for a selected number of key personnel, for example media staff. YouTube has broad business use.

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Internet access usage (download volume), including use of YouTube, is monitored on an ongoing basis to prevent overuse.

Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency

The Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency does not monitor usage of social media by staff and at this stage has no plans to do so.

Indigenous Business Australia

Indigenous Business Australia employees, unless specifically authorised for business requirements, do not have access to the social media sites.

IBA, may on a limited basis, monitor the sites accessed by these employees. To date, there has been no requirement to investigate those sites.

Indigenous Land Corporation

The Indigenous Land Corporation currently logs all visits to social media sites on a per-user basis, without tracking the amount of time spent at each.

Northern Land Council

No response received as at 12 November 2012.

Outback Stores Pty Ltd

Outback Stores is considering the use of social media in the future but does not currently permit the use across the business.

Social Security Appeals Tribunal

The Social Security Appeals Tribunal does not monitor usage of social media by staff.

Tiwi Land Council

The Tiwi Land Council does not monitor usage of social media by staff.

Torres Strait Regional Authority

Staff do not currently have access to social media. This will be considered if there are changes to the existing policy to allow official use of social media within the agency.

Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council

The Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council does not monitor usage of social media by staff.