

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0458_13

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

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 May 2012 Budget Estimates? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue. 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? Does social media impact on employee productivity? Provide details (details could include increased internet usage in general or increased internet usage in standard business hours)"

Answers

**Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)
Answer**

There has been no change to the Department's policy or protocols. Please refer to previously provided answer to Question No. EW0527_12.

In relation to monitoring, the Department does not monitor the use of social media given the policies and protocols in place.

Safe Work Australia (SWA) Answer

No. There have not been any changes in protocol or policy. Safe Work Australia's Social Media and IT policies are extensive in delivering the department's protocols for staff access and usage of online social media forums in a professional and private capacity.

No. Safe Work Australia does not monitor use of social media and does not intend to monitor use in the future.

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) Answer

No. There have been no changes in ACARA's protocols or policy. ACARA's Code of Conduct regulates use of ACARA resources, requiring proper and efficient use of ACARA resources (allowing for reasonable personal use of IT systems) and requires staff to behave in a professional manner at all times, in particular, staff may only make public comment in a professional or private capacity on ACARA's activities where expressly authorised by the CEO.

No. ACARA does not monitor usage of social media and does not intend to monitor use in future.

Fair Work Australia (FWA) Answer

The existing Internet and Email policy of FWA has not been changed since the 2012 Budget estimates. FWA allows use of Social Media in an employee's professional and private capacity, provided the employee adheres to APS and FWA Values and professional standards.

FWA does not monitor the use of social media but may do so in the future.

FWA can make no comment about the impact of social media on employee productivity.

Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) Answer

There have been no changes to the FWO's protocol or policy.

The FWO does not monitor use of social media and, at this stage, does not intend to monitor use in the future.

Comcare Answer

Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols?
No change to current policy.

Does the department/agency monitor usage of social media?
Currently no. Comcare ICT has in place a project to implement a new monitoring tool to enable greater granularity for reporting and monitoring in the near future.

Will the department/agency monitor usage in the future?
Yes. Procurement completed and a project is in progress to transition to the new infrastructure and software.

Does social media impact on employee productivity?
There has been no negative impact to productivity. Manual audits have been conducted in the past on the former infrastructure and usage is within acceptable limits and in accordance with the agency policy framework.

Fair Work Building & Construction (FWBC) Answer

No. There have not been any changes in protocol or policy. FWBC's Social Media and IT policies are extensive in delivering the department's protocols for staff access and usage of online social media forums in a professional and private capacity.

No. FWBC does not monitor use of social media and does not intend to monitor use in the future.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) Answer

No. There have not been any changes in protocol or policy. AITSL's policies are extensive in delivering protocols for staff access and usage of online social media forums in a professional and private capacity.

No. AITSL does not monitor use of social media and does not intend to monitor use in the future.