

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance and Deregulation  
**Outcome/Program:** General  
**Topic:** Social Media

**Senator:** Ryan

**Question reference number:** F96

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 30 March 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

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.

**Answer:**

No, Finance policy guidance has simply been updated to refer staff to the then latest Circular.

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**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Australian Electoral Commission  
**Outcome/Program:** General  
**Topic:** Social Media

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**Answer:**

No. The AEC has had no requirement to introduce any changes to: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online.

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** ComSuper  
**Outcome/Program:** General  
**Topic:** Social Media

**Senator:** Ryan  
**Question reference number:** F96  
**Type of question:** Written  
**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 30 March 2012

**Number of pages:** 2

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**Answer:**

No. There has been no change to ComSuper staff's access to social media websites. They remain blocked.

When the Circular 2012/1 was released, ComSuper communicated to staff regarding their rights and responsibilities (see Attachment A). ComSuper is currently updating existing policies and procedures to include social media protocols (where relevant) and referencing the APSC's guidelines. In addition, social media risks will be included into new staff induction and annual awareness training as part of the broader APS Code of Conduct and Conflict of interest subjects.

To all staff

### **Purpose**

To inform you that the Australian Public Service Commission has issued a guidance on 'making public comment and participating online'. It is important that you take the time to read the circular located at <http://www.apsc.gov.au/circulars/circular121.htm> as it explains what is expected of you as a public servant, and relates to the APS Values and Code of Conduct.

### **Details**

- The arrangements specified in the circular are now in effect. Specifically, guidance has been provided on what each of us need to consider when making public comments, both in our professional and private capacity. It will also inform ComSuper's policy on social media.
- Social media is becoming part of our daily lives with many people using Facebook and other online tools. So it is important to understand what is appropriate when you provide public comments in an official capacity at events or forums and also in a private capacity, including online.
- Last year, all APS agencies were given the opportunity to provide feedback on successive drafts of this guidance, and ComSuper participated in this process. Our input was sourced from a variety of staff in the communications, governance, finance, legal and business areas. Thank you to those involved.

### **Next steps**

- ComSuper is in the process of updating our draft social media policy to reflect the contents of the amended circular. This will be reviewed at the next Executive Committee on 7 February 2012.
- Once the policy is finalised it will be shared with all staff and become part of our annual awareness program and materials for new staff.

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**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation  
**Outcome/Program:** General  
**Topic:** Social media

**Senator:** Ryan

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**Answer:**

No.

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**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Future Fund Management Agency

**Outcome/Program:** General

**Topic:** Media Monitoring

**Senator:** Ryan

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**Answer:**

No. The Agency is in the process of reviewing its policies.