

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department of Finance and Deregulation**

**Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2010**

**Outcome General, Program General**

**Topic: Social Media**

**Question reference number: F69**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010**

**Number of Pages: 1**

**Senator Bernardi asked:**

- a) Why are Finance employees able to utilise these social media websites at work? Please explain.
- b) Are Finance employees encouraged to utilise these social media websites at work? Please explain.
- c) Must Finance employees seek permission or authorisation to engage in useage of social media websites at work? If yes, why? If no, why not?
- d) Must Finance employees have the information they want to publish on a social media website approved by their manager before posting it? Please provide details. What if that information is work related? Please provide details.
- e) Must Finance employees seek permission or authorisation to put on their social media websites that they are employees of the Department of Finance and Deregulation? If yes, why? If no, why not?
- f) Must Finance employees seek permission or authorisation to put on their social media websites that they are Australian Public Servants? If yes, why? If no, why not?

**Answer:**

- a) Finance staff are able to use internet resources at work for business purposes. Personal use is allowed providing it is incidental to formal duties.
- b) Finance encourages its staff to make efficient use of all departmental resources for business purposes.
- c) Finance staff must observe all relevant policies and guidelines when accessing social media. The department's acceptable ICT usage policy provides guidance on the use of social media sites.
- d) See part (c) above.
- e) See part (c) above.
- f) See part (c) above.