

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(369) Program: Internal Product

Senator Barnett asked:

Has the department instituted any policies or protocols that restrict or deny staff the use of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs? If yes, please explain what restrictions has been put in place. Why were these restrictions put in place?

IF NO:

Why not? (for example there may be legitimate reasons for some staff to access these sites for legitimate purposes).

Are staff utilising these sites during work hours? If yes, how many hours are spent on these sites? What time are these sites most accessed (i.e. lunch time?).

Will measures be introduced to restrict access to these sites?

Answer:

Yes, DIAC does have policies and protocols that restrict access to social networking sites including YouTube, Facebook, MySpace and Twitter, this is done in accordance with the Information Security Manual recommendation to restrict access to social media to minimise the disclosure of official information and protect the DIAC network from malicious code and activities presented via the internet.

DIAC has a:

- Chief Executive Instruction to instruct staff on the need for ethical and effective use of Commonwealth resources,
- specific policy in place giving guidance on responsibilities for Social Networking and the usage of the Internet in general,

DIAC provides access to social networking to those staff who require it to fulfil their operational duties, such access is granted when there is a business reason that has received the staff's manager's approval. DIAC has in place a commercially available product managed by its service provider which filters internet access dependent upon the categorisation of the websites; and blocks sites which have been determined to be 'inappropriate'.