

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING — PORTFOLIOS — TWITTER ACCOUNTS

892. Hon Martin Aldridge to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to Twitter, and I ask:

- (a) does the Minister have a registered Twitter account;
- (b) what is the Ministers' Twitter handle;
- (c) does the account describe you as a Minister and the portfolios that you hold;
- (d) other than the Minister, who else has access to the account;
- (e) do any of the Ministers' ministerial or departmental staff access and/or maintain the Twitter account;
- (f) how many Twitter users has the Minister blocked from accessing the account;
- (g) will the Minister please list the Twitter users that have been blocked from the account; and
- (h) how is the Minister ensuring compliance with the *State Records Act 2000* with respect to public and private communications received and sent via Twitter?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) @sueellery
- (c) Yes.
- (d) The Minister's Twitter account is a public account. Anyone who chooses to follow the Minister's account has access to the content posted by the account.
- (e) No.
- (f)–(g) Social media accounts, as is standard with social media management across Australia, block other accounts from time to time. In Government, accounts are usually blocked due to instances of, including but not limited to, vulgar language, excessive spam or direct or indirect threats. While the Government welcomes vigorous debate, we will not tolerate or give a platform to the aforementioned.
- (h) Ministers are aware of their obligations under the State Records Act.