

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 61

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McKenzie asked:

For this financial year to date, has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e.within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached)

- For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
- Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

For this financial year to date, the Department has paid the following:

Timeframe	Number of payments	Value of payments	% of payments
0-30 days	17,148	\$149,219,664.59	95.8%
31-44 days	659	\$6,551,414.90	3.6%
45-60 days	39	\$86,149.21	0.2%
61+ days	64	\$958,699.12	0.4%

There are a range of reasons why invoices are processed later than their due date, including:

- clarification required relating to the goods/services provided or the amount of an invoice
- incorrect contact details
- some invoices are not received but when reissued, are received with the original issue date.

No payments of interest have been made relating to the late payment of invoices for this financial year.