

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2012-13 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross

**Question No:** 351

**Topic:** Government Payments of Accounts

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Boyce** 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? Provide details, including 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 the period 1 July 2012 to 31 October 2012, the Department has paid the following:

Timeframe	No. of Payments	Value of Payments	% of Payments
0-30 days	8,561	\$88,880,956.14	97.48%
31-44 days	164	\$1,579,816.16	1.87%
45-60 days	40	\$136,803.38	0.46%
61+ days	17	\$573,176.03	0.19%

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.

In this financial year, late payments of interest have been made in line with the introduction of Finance Circular 2012/02 (Procurement On-Time Payment Policy for Small Business) advising changes to the guidelines from September 2012.

Payments of interest have been made to 2 companies totalling \$168.88.