

**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:** 352

**Topic:** Government Payments of Accounts

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Boyce** asked:

"For 2011-12, did the department/agency pay 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/was 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? Have all accounts from 2011-12 been paid? If not, why not?"

**Answer:**

For the 2011-12 financial year, the Department paid the following:

| Timeframe  | No. of Payments | Value of Payments | % of Payments |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 0-30 days  | 26,801          | \$249,231,078     | 96.22%        |
| 31-44 days | 875             | \$9,670,208       | 3.14%         |
| 45-60 days | 79              | \$279,901         | 0.28%         |
| 61+ days   | 99              | \$1,127,052       | 0.36%         |

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 were made relating to the late payment of invoices in the 2011-12 financial year.

All accounts relating to the 2011-12 financial year have been paid.