

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

Question: AET 742

Topic: Government Payments of Accounts

Written: Received from Committee – 22 February 2013

Senator BUSHBY asked:

742. For this financial year to date (22 February 2013), 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:

- 742.
- For the financial year to 22 February 2013, 99% of accounts have been paid within 30 days of a correctly rendered invoice. With respect to the 1% of payments not paid within 30 days, delays are mainly associated with receipt of incorrect or incomplete invoices and/or differences in respect of the amounts charged or services provided. All suppliers identified as small businesses were paid within 30 days.
 - There have been no claims for payment of interest on overdue accounts.
 - Not applicable.