

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-409

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Boyce asked:

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.

Answer:

Table 1: 1 July 2010 to 31 May 2011: Timeliness of Payments

Department/ Portfolio Agency		Paid within 30 days	Paid within 31 – 44 days	Paid within 45 - 60 days	Paid within 61 – 74 days	Paid within 75 – 90 days	Paid > 90 days	Total
		Paid on Time	Up to 14 days late	Up to 30 days late	Up to 44 days late	Up to 60 days late	> 60 days late	
Department of Health and Ageing*	Number of Invoices	41,558	2					41,560
	% of total	99.995%	0.005%					100%
Private Health Insurance Administration Council	Number of Invoices	1,321						1,321
	% of total	100%						100%
Private Health Insurance Ombudsman	Number of Invoices	431						431
	% of total	100%						100%
Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency	Number of Invoices	1,632						1,632
	% of total	100%						100%
Food Standards Australia New Zealand	Number of Invoices	1,757	119	39	20	8	14	1,957
	% of total	89.78%	6.08%	1.99%	1.02%	0.41%	0.72%	100%
National Blood Authority ¹	Number of Invoices	1,496	45	25	3		2	1,571
	% of total	95.22%	2.86%	1.59%	0.19%		0.12%	100%

Department/ Portfolio Agency		Paid within 30 days	Paid within 31 – 44 days	Paid within 45 - 60 days	Paid within 61 – 74 days	Paid within 75 – 90 days	Paid > 90 days	Total
		Paid on Time	Up to 14 days late	Up to 30 days late	Up to 44 days late	Up to 60 days late	> 60 days late	
General Practice Education and Training	Number of Invoices	2,306						2,306
	% of total	100%						100%
Organ Tissue Authority	Number of Invoices	49	1					50
	% of total	98.00%	2.00%					100%
National Health and Medical Research Council ²	Number of Invoices	561	41	7	2	12	1	624
	% of total	89.9%	6.57%	1.12%	0.32%	1.92%	0.16%	100%
National Breast and Ovarian Cancer	Number of Invoices	1,106						1,106
	% of total	100%						100%
Cancer Australia ³	Number of Invoices	570	75	30	8	1	3	687
	% of total	83.0%	10.9%	4.4%	1.2%	0.1%	0.4%	100%
Health Workforce Australia ⁴	Number of Invoices	1,955	103					2,058
	% of total	95%	5%					100%
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare ⁵	Number of Invoices	358	29	18	8	5	7	425
	% of total	84.2%	6.8%	4.2%	1.9%	1.2%	1.6%	100%

*Includes Australian National Preventive Health Agency

¹Invoices in dispute were not paid until the National Blood Authority was satisfied the invoice was correct.

² Awaiting payment details from supplier and invoices were not sent directly to Finance area by supplier.

³ Small agency with few processing staff and change over of staff during the financial year.

⁴ Invoices are only paid later than 30 days if there is an issue with invoice.

⁵ Delay in receipt of invoice; Christmas shut down. To the best of our knowledge, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare did not pay any invoices late where the services and invoices had been fully and properly provided on time.