

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 14 FEBRUARY 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Question reference number: HS 52

Senator: Boyce

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) 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)?
- b) 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)
- c) 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?
- d) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

- a) The Department does not specifically identify suppliers as contractors/consultants.
- b) The Department only maintains 30 day payment statistics for suppliers that self-identify as small businesses (less than 20 staff). The table below provides 30 day payment statistics for this group of suppliers.

	30 days	31-44 days	45-60 days	>60 days	Total
# of invoices	70,483	987	366	433	72,271
% of invoices	97.6%	1.3%	0.4%	0.7%	100.0%
Value	\$79,132,481	\$3,354,468	\$1,385,619	\$916,620	\$84,789,188
% of Value	91.9%	2.8%	3.2%	2.0%	100.0%

- c) Yes, \$10,956.66 in interest has been paid by the Department this financial year to small businesses.
- d) The general interest charge daily rate of 0.02805479% for January – March 2013, as advised in the Finance Circular and published on the Australian Taxation Office website, is being used to calculate interest payments.