

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 27 FEBRUARY 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Question reference number: HS 135

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 April 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

I refer to HS 23 concerning government payment of accounts. Please update answers (a) to (d).

Answer:

- a) The department does not specifically identify suppliers as contractors/consultants.
- b) The department only maintains payment statistics for suppliers that self-identify as small businesses (less than 20 staff). Thirty day payment statistics for this group of suppliers are provided below for the financial year to date (to 28 February 2014).

	30 days	31-44 days	45-60 days	>60 days	Total
Number of invoices	52,372	377	169	220	53,138
% of invoices	98.6%	0.7%	0.3%	0.4%	100.0%
Value	\$63,838,289	\$1,705,239	\$452,181	\$409,982	\$66,405,691
% of value	96.1%	2.6%	0.7%	0.6%	100.0%

- c) Yes, \$2,679.82 in interest has been paid by the department this financial year to small businesses, of which \$2,064.57 has been paid since 7 September 2013.
- d) The general interest charge daily rate of 0.02627397% for January – March 2014 as advised in the Finance Circular (2012/02 Procurement On-Time Payment Policy for Small business) and published on the Australian Taxation Office website is being used to calculate interest payments.