

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programmes Question No: SQ16-000024

Topic: Payments of Accounts

Hansard page:

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. What has been the average time period for the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors, consultants or others?
2. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in under 30 days?
3. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 30 and 60 days?
4. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 60 and 90 days?
5. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 90 and 120 days?
6. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in over 120 days?
7. 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 since Estimates, 2014?
8. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

1. The average time period for payment of departmental accounts was 20 days.
2. The Department's standard payment terms of trade are 30 days. During the period, 11,193 payments, (97.6 per cent) payments were made in 30 days or less.
3. 189 payments, (1.6 per cent) payments were paid between 31 – 60 days.
4. 40 payments, (0.4 per cent) payments were paid between 61 – 90 days
5. 23 payments, (0.2 per cent) payments were paid between 91 and 120 days,
6. 18 payments, (0.2 per cent) were paid after 121 days
7. For the period May 2014 to July 2015, 55 interest payments totalling \$3,852.35 were paid. For 2015-16 financial year to 25 February 2016 12 payments totalling \$451.68 have been paid.
8. Interest payments are based on the General Interest Rate, as per ATO guidance, which is updated quarterly.