

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000134

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Government Payments of Accounts

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Ludwig, Joe

**Question:**

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? f) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in over 120 days?
6. 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?
7. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

The answers provided include details for the Department and the following Portfolio Agencies:

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC);  
Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA);  
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA);  
National Health Performance Authority (NHPA);  
National Health Funding Body (NHFB); and  
National Mental Health Commission (NMHC).

Payments made by Corporate Credit Card and payments made to Local, State and Commonwealth Government Entities have been excluded.

1. 10,302 payments were made during this period with an average payment time of 23 days.

2. 7,579 (74 per cent) payments were made in less than 30 days.
3. 2,165 payments (21.01 per cent) were made between 30 and 60 days.
4. 369 payments (3.58 per cent) were made between 60 and 90 days.
5. 108 payments (1.04 per cent) made between 90 to 120 days. 81 payments (0.78 per cent) were made after 120 days:
6. Late payment penalties have been paid on overdue amounts for ACSQHC, IHPA and NHPA. The total amount of interest paid during the period 22 October 2014 to 29 February 2016 was \$11,039.94
7. The Department of Health pays interest on overdue amounts in accordance with Department of Finance Resource Management Guide 417 – Supplier pay on-time or pay interest.