

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 29 MAY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Payment of Accounts

Question reference number: HS 79

Senator: McKenzie

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 27 July 2012

Number of pages: 2

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) In accordance with government policy, the department maintains 30 day payment statistics for suppliers that self-identify as small businesses (less than 20 staff). There is no other government policy that relates to payment of accounts for all contractors and consultants. 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). Thirty day payment statistics for this group of suppliers are provided below.

	30 days	31-44 days	45-60 days	>60 days	Total
No. of invoices	112,432	3,027	1,175	1,403	118,037
% of invoices	95.3%	2.6%	1.0%	1.2%	100.0%
Value	\$105,581,659	\$11,506,479	\$5,026,697	\$4,479,947	\$126,594,783
% of value	83.4%	9.1%	4.0%	3.5%	100.0%

- c) Interest is only paid on overdue amounts on receipt of a separate invoice from the vendor for this interest. No such separate invoices have been received from vendors.

No interest has been paid by the department this financial year. No interest was paid by the department last financial year.

d) Not applicable.