

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross

**Question No:** 450

**Topic:** Payment of Accounts

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator McKenzie** asked:

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)?

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.

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?

Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

For this financial year to date, the Department has paid the following:

<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>No of Payments</b>	<b>Value of Payments</b>	<b>% of Payments</b>
0-30 days	22,498	\$192,340,904.36	96%
31-44 days	815	\$9,226,124.80	3.5%
45-60 days	45	\$150,496.77	0.2%
61+ days	85	\$1,030,136.29	0.3%

There are a range of reasons why invoices are processed later than their due date, including:

- clarification required relating to the goods/services provided or the amount of an invoice
- incorrect contact details
- some invoices are not received but when reissued, are received with the original issue date.

In this financial year no payments of interest have been made relating to the late payment of invoices.

One payment of interest was made in the previous financial year. \$425.25 was the amount of interest paid. The interest calculation was prepared by the company and was at a lower rate than the ATO guidelines.