

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross Outcome - Across Programs

**Question No:** 153

**Topic:** Government payments of accounts

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Ludwig** asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

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:**

Department of Social Services (including the Aged Care Commissioner, the Aged Care Pricing Commissioner and the Social Security Appeals Tribunal):

For the period 6 June 2014 to 31 August 2014:

1. The average time was 22 days.
2. 5,114 (94.5 per cent)
3. 217 (4.0 per cent)
4. 32 (0.6 per cent)
5. 20 (0.4 per cent)
6. 30 (0.5 per cent)
7. Yes, interest is paid to small businesses when the invoice is paid late as per Finance Circular 2012/02 and Resource Management Instruction 417/2014. Since 6 June 2014, \$733.72 in interest has been paid.
8. Interest is calculated by using the General Interest Charge rates as per guidance provided by the Australian Taxation Office.

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Australian Aged Care Quality Agency

1. Approximately 14 days
2. 1503 payments = 100 per cent
3. 0 payments = 0 per cent
4. 0 payments = 0 per cent
5. 0 payments = 0 per cent
6. N/A
7. N/A

Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)

1. The average time period AIFS paid its accounts to contractors, consultants or others is 15 days.
2. AIFS paid 173 or 99 per cent of payments in under 30 days.
3. AIFS paid 1 or 1 per cent of payments within the period between 30 and 60 days.
4. No payments exceeded 60 days owing.
5. No payments exceeded 90 days owing.
6. No payments exceeded 120 days owing.
7. No interest was paid or payable on overdue accounts.
8. N/A

National Disability Insurance Agency

1. 29 days
2. 930 (72.3 per cent)
3. 266 (20.7 per cent)
4. 42 (3.3 per cent)
5. 15 (1.2 per cent)
6. 33 (2.5 per cent)
7. No
8. N/A