

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates**

20-21 November 2013

**Question: SBT 439**

**Topic: Government Payments of Accounts**

**Written: 25 November 2013**

**Senators LUDWIG and WONG asked:**

439.

- a) From 7 September 2013 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:**

439.

- a) For the period September to 30 November 2013, ASIC has identified 94% of Contractors and Consultants were paid within the Government Policy terms of 30 days. The remaining 6% were paid outside of the 30 day terms.

<b>Invoices Paid September 2013 to date</b>	<b>Paid within 30 days</b>	<b>Paid within 31- 60 days</b>	<b>Paid over 60 days</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>Paid %</b>	94	6	0	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Invoices</b>	219	14	0	<b>233</b>

- b) Most delays in paying invoices beyond 30 day terms were due to the receipt of incorrect or incomplete invoices and /or differences between purchase orders and invoices in respect in amounts charged or services provided.

All ASIC suppliers have been asked to send all invoices to a central location for scanning and have been reminded what information is required for a properly rendered invoice. This has been designed to reduce any delays in payment.

- c) No interest was payable in this financial year or the previous financial year.
- d) Not applicable.