

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0128_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept & all agencies: Government payments of accounts

1) From Additional Estimates in February, 2014 to date, 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 Additional Estimates in February, 2014? 7) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer

Department

The Department of Education does not track individual average time period for payment of accounts. The department tracks for the time periods displayed below.

From March 2014 to June 2014 the Department of Education¹ paid 94 per cent of suppliers within 30 days of receiving a correctly rendered invoice.

	No. of claims	%	Value of claims (\$,000)	%
Paid in 30 days	4,569	94%	40,252	85%
Paid 31-44 days	203	4%	6,059	13%
Paid 45-60 days	66	1%	748	2%
Paid > 60 days	44	1%	293	0%
Total	4,882	100%	47,352	100%

¹. For the 2013-14 financial year, costs associated with Corporate and the State Office Network functions cannot be simply attributed to the individual departments. The value associated with these functions has been attributed to both departments.

For accounts not paid within 30 days, interest is payable upon receipt of a correctly rendered invoice from qualifying suppliers as prescribed in Finance Circular 2012/02. No claims for interest due to late payment have been received during the period 1 March to 30 June 2014.

For accounts not paid within 60 days, interest is payable via a self-generated payment for qualifying suppliers as prescribed in Finance Circular 2012/02. No late payments during the period 1 March to 30 June 2014 met the requirements of this Finance Circular.

Determination of any interest payable is in accordance with the requirements of Finance Circular 2012/02.

Agency

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

- 1) ACARA does not track this information
- 2) ACARA does not track this information
- 3) ACARA does not track this information
- 4) ACARA does not track this information
- 5) ACARA does not track this information
- 6) ACARA has not paid interest on overdue amounts to date
- 7) Not applicable

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership

- 1) Under 30 days
- 2) 992 or 93%
- 3) 46 or 4%
- 4) 12 or 1%
- 5) 4 or 0%
- 6) No; nil
- 7) Not Applicable

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

- 1) 10 days
- 2) 7069 payments, 88%
- 3) 172 payments, 11%
- 4) 4 payments, 1%
- 5) 0 payments
- 6) No interest is being paid
- 7) N/A

Australian Research Council

- 1) 12 days
- 2) 197 invoices at 97%
- 3) 4 invoices at 2%
- 4) 2 invoices at 1%
- 5) Nil
- 6) No
- 7) N/A

Note - this question is being answered in relation to Small Businesses only.

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

- 1) The average time period for TEQSA to pay the accounts is 16 days.
- 2) 429 payments owed (98.4% of total payments) have been paid under 30 days.
- 3) 6 payments owed (1.4% of total payments) have been paid in between 30 and 60 days.
- 4) 1 payments owed (0.2% of total payments) have been paid in between 60 and 90 days.
- 5) Nil payments owed have been paid in between 90 and 120 days and nil payments owed have been paid in over 120 days.
- 6) There were no interest paid for accounts not paid within 30 days.
- 7) Not applicable.