

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0510_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept & All Agencies: Government payments of accounts

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? 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 Estimates, 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 the individual average time period for payment of accounts. The department tracks for the time periods displayed below.

From 1 July to 31 October 2014 the Department of Education¹ paid 92 per cent of suppliers within 30 days of receiving a correctly rendered invoice.

	No of claims	%	Value of claims (\$,000)	%
Paid in 30 days	3,685	92%	28,204	91%
Paid 31 to 44 days	215	5%	1,863	6%
Paid 45 to 60 days	61	2%	634	2%
Paid > 60 days	39	1%	370	1%
	4,000	100%	31,072	100%

¹ The table includes transactions incurred by the Shared services Centre on behalf of the Department of Education and the Department of Employment.

6. 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 July to 31 October 2014.

For accounts not paid within 60 days, interest is payable via a self-generated payment for qualifying suppliers also as prescribed in Finance Circular 2012/02. No late payments during the period 1 July to 31 October 2014 met this requirement.

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

Agency Responses

Australian Research Council

The average time period for the Council to pay its accounts is 10 days, with 95.5 per cent paid within 30 days, and 4.5 per cent paid between 30 to 60 days.

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

The average time period for the agency to pay its accounts is 14 days, with 99 per cent of the total paid in under 30 days. 1 per cent of the total was paid between 30 to 60 days.

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

The agency does not track this information.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership

83% of accounts are paid within 30 days, 13 per cent between 30 to 60 days, 1 per cent between 60 to 90 days, and a further 1 per cent paid over 120 days.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

The average time period for the agency to pay accounts is 11 days. 92 per cent of payments are made within 30 days, 7 per cent are paid between 30 to 60 days, 1 per cent between 60 to 90 days, and less than 1 per cent over 120 days.