

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Government payments of accounts - All Agency Indigenous Bodies

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

**Question reference number:** 359

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 July 2014

**Number of pages:** 3

**Question:**

- a) 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?
- b) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in under 30 days?
- c) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 30 and 60 days?
- d) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 60 and 90 days?
- e) 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?
- g) 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?
- h) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

Responses for the Indigenous Affairs agencies within the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio are provided below:

<b>Portfolio Agency</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Aboriginal Hostels Limited	AHL does not currently capture this information as our payment process is a manual process. However, AHL's policy is to pay all invoices within the suppliers trading

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	terms.
Anindilyakwa Land Council	The ALC generally pays its contractors within 30 days – at latest 60 days (unless in dispute). Accounts not paid within 30 days do not/have not incurred interest. Providing a dollar value and percentage of total for each ageing category is an unreasonable diversion of Land Council resources at this time.
Central Land Council	All accounts paid within 30 days as per policy, or less for agreed arrangements. Exact date of payment is determined by schedule, and is not compared to the 30 day limit.
Indigenous Business Australia	a) All were fully paid within 30 days. b) There were a total of forty nine (49) payments to contractors and consultants for the period 1 March to 30 May 2014. c) Nil d) Nil e) Nil g) N/A h) N/A
Indigenous Land Corporation	a) average time period for the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors, consultants or others is 14 - 30 days b) 94.34% of payments owed have been paid in under 30 days. c) 4.22% of payments owed have been paid between 30 and 60 days. d) 5.68% of payments owed have been paid between 60 and 90 days e) 1.42% of payments owed have been paid between 90 and 120 days. <i>* Note percentages have been provided. Given time restraints on answers, number has not been determined.</i> g) No interest is being paid on overdue accounts h) n/a
Northern Land Council	Information not currently available.
Outback Stores Pty Ltd	a) Less than 7 days
Tiwi Land Council	a) 30 days from statement b) 95% c) 2.5% d) 2.5% e) 0%

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	g) No h) Nil
Torres Strait Regional Authority	30 days.
Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council	Nil – no contractors, consultants or others.