

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—November 2013**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary Departments: Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **Government Payment of Accounts**

Question No: **163**

Written: **Senator Ludwig**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014**

- 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**

- a) For the period 7 to 30 September 2013, the Department paid 89% of invoices issued by identified small businesses on time.
- b) The remaining invoices were paid late as a result of internal processing delays . Payment performance in relation to small businesses for the period 7 to 30 September 2013 is detailed in the table below.

<b>7 September 2013 - 30 September 2013</b>	<b>Paid within 30 Days</b> (paid on time)	<b>Paid within 31 - 45 days</b> (up to 15 days)	<b>Paid within 45 - 60 days</b> (up to 30 days)	<b>Not paid within 60 days</b> (30 or more days)	<b>Total</b>
Number of invoices	98	6	4	2	110
	89%	5%	4%	2%	100%

- c) The following amounts of penalty interest were paid to suppliers identified as small businesses on accounts paid more than 30 days late:
  - Current financial year-to-date (to 30 September 2013): nil
- d) The rate of interest paid to small businesses is calculated using the general interest charge daily rate, determined under section 8AAD of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* on the day that payment was due, as published on the ATO website.