

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian National Audit Office

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Government Payments of Accounts

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: 172

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- 1) 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)?
 - a) 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)
 - b) 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?
 - c) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

Q1. The ANAO complies with Government policy in respect of supplier payment terms. Late payment can arise due to disputed invoices or clarification of goods or services rendered prior to making payment. Payments were made within standard terms of 30 days in all but two of the 644 instances for the period 7 September 2013 to 30 November 2013. The two invoices that were paid later than 30 days required further clarification and confirmation of charges before they were paid. There was no interest paid on the overdue amounts.