

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SENATE ESTIMATES SESSION

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet – All Agencies

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Government payment of accounts

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe 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:

- 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: The Department has not requested an answer to this question from the Indigenous portfolio bodies as it is not considered to be applicable to them because the Commonwealth Procurement Rules do not apply to those bodies.