

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Group: 1**

**Program: Whole-of-Portfolio**

**Question No. SBE14/121**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following written question from the 20 November and 11 December 2014 hearings.**

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?
  - a. 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?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

1 – 5. The portfolio's response is set out in the table below.

<b>Department/Agency</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in under 30 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in between 30 and 60 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in between 60 and 90 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in between 90 and 120 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in over 120 days</b>
Attorney-General's Department	6,662 (96.33%)	225 (3.25%)	29 (0.42%)	Nil	Nil

<b>Department/Agency</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in under 30 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in between 30 and 60 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in between 60 and 90 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in between 90 and 120 days</b>	<b>Payments owed that have been paid in over 120 days</b>
Administrative Appeals Tribunal	1,775 (96.6%)	46 (2.5%)	3 (0.2%)	12 (0.7%)	1 (<0.1%)
Australia Council	8,918 (99%)	75 (1%)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Australian Crime Commission	166 (96%)	6 (3.5%)	1 (0.5%)	Nil	Nil
Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity	456 (97%)	12 (3%)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Australian Federal Police	413 (99.28%)	3 (0.72%)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Australian Film, Television and Radio School	2,220 (100%)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Australian Financial Security Authority	2,107 (88.72%)	210 (8.84%)	19 (0.80%)	39 (1.64%) AFSA's financial data does not break down any further categories beyond 90+ days.	
Australian Human Rights Commission	2,567 (93%)	188 (6.82%)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Australian Institute of Criminology	330 (99.1%)	2 (0.6%)	1 (0.3%)	Nil	Nil
Australian Law Reform Commission	485 (100%)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Australian National Maritime Museum	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation	5,162 (87%)	603 (10%)	114 (2%)	40 (0.7%)	45 (0.8%)
Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre	2,005 (96.84%)	43 (2.93%)	12 (0.22%)	1 (0.01%)	Nil
Bundanon Trust	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions	5,587 (93.43%)	349 (5.84%)	28 (0.47%)	6 (0.10%)	10 (0.17%)
CrimTrac Agency	718 (84.37%)	103 (12.10%)	23 (2.70%)	4 (0.47%)	3 (0.35%)

Department/Agency	Payments owed that have been paid in under 30 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 30 and 60 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 60 and 90 days	Payments owed that have been paid in between 90 and 120 days	Payments owed that have been paid in over 120 days
Creative Partnerships Australia	561 (100%)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Family Court and Federal Circuit Court	7,284 (99.143%)	49 (0.667%)	11 (0.15%)	1 (0.01%)	2 (0.03%)
Federal Court of Australia	5,516 (96%)	206 (4%)	17 (<1%)	Nil	Nil
High Court of Australia	The High Court of Australia pays its accounts to all suppliers in a timely manner although the Government's policy does not apply to the Court				
Museum of Australian Democracy/Old Parliament House	To attempt to provide the level of detail requested for would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.				
National Archives of Australia	2,269 (98.14%)	42 (1.82%)	Nil	1 (0.04%)	Nil
National Film and Sound Archive	1,372 (95%)	72 (5%)	Nil	Nil	Nil
National Gallery of Australia	13,400 (95%)	404 (4%)	101 (1%)	Nil	Nil
National Library of Australia	4,952 (97.9%)	81 (1.6%)	7 (0.1%)	5 (0.1%)	16 (0.3%)
National Museum of Australia	The National Museum of Australia is not subject to the Procurement On-Time Payment Policy and does not record information at this level.				
National Portrait Gallery of Australia	569 (95.92%)	15 (3.70%)	2 (0.08%)	1 (0.30%)	Nil
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	12 (85.7%)	2 (14.3%)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Office of Parliamentary Counsel	25 (100%)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Screen Australia	238 (95%)	10 (4%)	2 (1%)	Nil	Nil

6. For the Attorney-General's Department and portfolio agencies no interest is being paid or has been paid with the following exceptions:

**Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions**

A total of \$106.53 interest on overdue amounts.

**National Archives of Australia**

A total of \$313.44 interest on overdue amounts.

**Museum of Australian Democracy/Old Parliament House**

A total of \$49.71 interest on overdue amounts.

**Screen Australia**

A total of \$22.83 interest on overdue amounts.

7. For the portfolio, the rate of interest utilised is the General Interest Charge Rate. The rate is published by the Australian Taxation Office, and is expressed as a decimal rate per day.