

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

**Question: BET 199**

**Topic: Government Payments of Accounts (APRA)**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Barnett asked:**

1. Has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (ie. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and 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.)
2. 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?
3. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answers:**

1. Yes. Only two invoices, out of 2,661 invoices received, were not paid within the 30-day time frame because they were not forwarded to APRA's Finance Department from the internal departments in time.  
  
The two invoices were paid nine and ten days, respectively, outside the 30-day time frame and totalled \$125.  
  
APRA has reminded its staff of the need to promptly forward invoices for payment.
2. In relation to the accounts not paid within 30 days, no interest was payable. The Finance Circular 2008/10 sets a threshold of \$10, below which interest is not payable.  
  
The calculation of interest was based on the general interest charge daily rate (GIC) that is located on the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) website for the day that the invoice was due.
3. Not applicable.