

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Education Question No. ED0361_14

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Dept/Ag - Government payments of accounts

1. From Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 to date, 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? 6. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in over 120 days? 7. 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 7 September 2013? 8. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer

DEPARTMENT

The Department of Education was created on 18 September 2013. The department does not track average time periods for payment of individual accounts. The department tracks the time periods at the aggregate level, displayed below.

From November 2013 to February 2014 the Department of Education¹ paid 94 per cent of suppliers within 30 days of receiving a correctly rendered invoice.

	No. of claims	%	Value of claims (\$,000)	%
Paid in 30 days	4,277	94%	20,200	92%
Paid 31-44 days	171	4%	1,293	6%
Paid 45-60 days	28	0%	180	1%
Paid > 60 days	70	2%	178	1%
Total	4,546	100%	21,851	100%

¹ Corporate and the State Office Network provide services to the Department of Education and the Department of Employment. The value and volume associated with these functions has been attributed to both departments.

AGENCY

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

Questions 1 – 6: ACARA does not track timeliness of payments as it is a Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act (1997) Agency, and is not subject to the provisions of the Financial Management and Accountability Act (1997).

Questions 7 – 8: ACARA has not paid any interest on late payments in the reporting period.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership

1. 18 days
2. 1,059 or 91%
3. 78 or 7%
4. 19 or 2%
5. 5 or 0%
6. 9 or 1%
7. No; nil
8. Not Applicable

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

1. 7 days
2. 1,922 payments, 96%
3. 66 payments, 3%
4. 8 payments, 0%
5. Nil
6. Nil
7. No interest is being paid.
8. N/A

Australian Research Council

1. 8 days average.
2. 56 payments at 100 per cent
3. N/A
4. N/A
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. N/A
8. N/A

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

1. 12 days
2. 421 (98.83%)
3. 4
4. 1 (0.23%)
5. Nil
6. Nil
7. No interest was charged for those invoices not paid within 30 days
8. Not applicable