

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES 24 MAY 2010

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Department/Agency: AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Outcome/Output Group: 1.1

Topic: Government payment of accounts

Senator: Barnett

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday 9 July 2010

Type of question: Written

Question reference number: PM 70

- (a) Has the portfolio/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, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts?
- (c) Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)
- (d) 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?
- (e) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

- (a) Comprehensive information is not available from the Commission's Financial Management Information System and it is not feasible to undertake the manual collection of the information sought and required analysis. The Commission's procedures are consistent with the government policy of paying accounts within 30 days of the receipt of a correctly rendered invoice.
- (b) Not available.
- (c) Not available.
- (d) The Commission has not paid interest in respect of late payments.
- (e) Not applicable.

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