

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 24-25 MAY 2010**

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Old Parliament House

**Outcome/Output Group:**

**Topic:** Government Payment of Accounts

**Senator:** Barnett

**Question reference number:** PM70

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

- a) Has the portfolio/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.)
- b) 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?
- c) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

- a) Of the 2,193 invoices paid (Departmental 2,037 and Administered 156) in the 2009-10 Financial Year (to end May 2010), 99.4% were paid by 30 days. The 0.6% paid outside these terms equated to 14 invoices during the financial year. A statistical breakdown of these, and the reasons for the delays, is below:

Type	Vendor (Names deleted)	Average Days To Pay - Year	No of Invoices	Service Provider	Reason
Dept	X	54	1	Consultant	Approval process delayed payment
Dept	XX	34	6	Contractor	Dispute over performance of the contract

Dept	XXX	34	1	Accommodation	Approval process delayed payment
Dept	XXXX	36	1	Printing	Invoice not processed in time
Dept	XXXXX	36	2	Books	Held up pending additional detail for capitalisation
Admin	XXXXXX	33	3	Conservation	Approval process delayed payment
<b>Total</b>			<b>14</b>		

b) Interest is not being paid on overdue amounts.

c) Not applicable.