

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Budget Estimates 25 May 2011

Question: 108

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Asked By: Senator FIFIELD

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 2

- a) Has the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. 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) For the period 1 October 2010 – 31 May 2011 the Department has paid 96.38 per cent of its invoices from small businesses within 30 days of receipt of a correctly rendered invoice. This is greater than the 90% benchmark set in the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business that is used for the report to the Government on effectiveness of the 30 Day Payment Policy for Small Business.

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- b) Interest is payable where the amount of interest is greater than \$10 and the contractor has issued a correctly rendered invoice for the interest. The Department has paid \$219.95 interest on overdue accounts during the period 1 October 2010 – 31 May 2011. The Department was not in existence in the previous financial year.

- c) In line with the Finance Circular 2008/10 the Department pays interest at the general interest charge rate, which is the interest charge determined under section 8AAD of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* on the day that payment is due.