

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Government payment of accounts 2011–12**

Question: **205**

Written **Senator Ryan**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 November 2012

For 2011-12, did the department/agency pay 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? Provide details, including 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)
- For accounts not paid within 30 days, is/was 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?
- Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?
- Have all accounts from 2011-12 been paid? If no, why not?

Answer

- The 2011–12 annual Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business has been completed and the results were:

1 July 2011– 30 June 2012	Paid within 30 days (paid on time)	Paid within 31–44 days (up to 14 days late)	Paid within 45–60 days (up to 30 days late)	Not paid within 60 days (30 or more days late)	Total
Number of invoices	1,603	150	57	53	1,863
Value of invoices \$	4,873,183	291,206	146,586	163,557	\$5,474,532

There were two main issues identified through the DPS 2011–12 Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business where DPS is focussing to improve the payment of invoices on time.

- Work with and remind Business areas of their responsibilities to goods receipt and approve invoices for payment when they receive a correctly rendered tax invoice.
 - Improve the integration between The Parliament Shop system and the DPS Financial Management Information System (FMIS) that will enable more timely payment of accounts related to the operations of The Parliament Shop.
- No vendors had requested, and no interest had been paid, on accounts of more than 30 days in arrears.
 - Not applicable.
 - All correctly rendered tax invoices for 2011–12 have been paid.