

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0472) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Humphries (written) asked:

For this financial year to date, 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? 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 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?

Answer:

In the financial year to date 28 February 2013, 83 per cent of all payments were made within departmental policy of 30 days.

Payment Days	No. of invoices	% of payments
Paid within 30 days	62 131	83.0
Paid within 31-44 days	10 147	13.6
Paid within 45-60 days	896	1.2
Paid on or after 61 days	1 678	2.2
Total Number of Invoices	74 852	100.0

The main reasons some payments are not made within the 30 day terms of trade are:

- Invoices in dispute are not paid until resolution
- Invoices can arrive late or be lost in transit
- Invoices sent to DIAC officers in remote locations for checking and verification sometimes take longer than 30 days to be finalised.

The department has not paid any penalty interest on late payments to any business in the previous financial years or the financial year to date, 28 February 2013.

MRT-RRT

In the financial year to 31 January 2013, the MRT-RRT paid all accounts in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment.