

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 October 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

##### (SE11/0043): Internal Product

Senator Humphries (L&CA written) asked:

For the FYTD, has the Department 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.)

*Answer:*

##### Department of Immigration and Citizenship

In the financial year to date, 30 September 2011, 82 per cent of all payments were made within departmental policy of 30 days.

<b>Payment Days</b>	<b>No. of Invoices</b>	<b>% of payments</b>
Paid within 30 days Total	18 639	82%
Paid within 31-44 days Total	3 286	14%
Paid within 45-60 days Total	362	2%
Paid on or after 61 days Total	472	2%
<b>Total Number of Invoices</b>	<b>22 759</b>	

The main reasons some payments have not been made within 30 days are:

- Invoices in dispute are not paid until resolution, which can take longer than the 30 days;
- Where officers responsible for checking and approving an invoice are not readily available;
- Invoices can arrive late or be lost in transit; and
- Invoices sent to DIAC officers in remote locations for checking and verification sometimes take longer than 30 days to be finalised.

##### Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal

For the financial year to date, 30 September 2011, MRT/RRT has paid all invoices within the agency policy of 30 days.