

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

### **ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 11 FEBRUARY 2016 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **Department of Human Services**

**Topic:** Government payment of accounts

**Question reference number:** HS 60

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 4 April 2016

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

- a) What has been the average time period for the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors, consultants or others?
- b) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in under 30 days?
- c) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 30 and 60 days?
- d) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 60 and 90 days?
- e) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 90 and 120 days?
- f) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in over 120 days?
- g) 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 since Estimates, 2014?
- h) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

#### **Answer:**

- a) The department does not specifically identify suppliers as contractors/consultants. The department only maintains payment statistics for suppliers that self-identify as small business (less than 20 staff).
- b) Payment statistics for the small business group of suppliers for the financial year to date are provided below.

	<b>30 days</b>	<b>31-44 days</b>	<b>45-60 days</b>	<b>&gt;60 days</b>	<b>Total</b>
# of invoices	38,899	221	54	58	39,232
% of invoices	99.2%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	100.0%
Value	\$37,215,454	\$1,371,525	\$339,426	\$224,819	\$39,151,224
% of value	95.0%	3.5%	0.9%	0.6%	100.0%

- c) The department paid 275 invoices comprising 0.7 per cent of the total number of invoices paid to small businesses in between 30 and 60 days.
- d) The department paid 58 invoices comprising 0.1 per cent of the total number of invoices paid to small businesses in over 60 days. The department does not maintain a breakdown of payment statistics beyond 60 days.
- e) The department does not maintain a breakdown of payment statistics beyond 60 days.
- f) The department does not maintain a breakdown of payment statistics beyond 60 days.
- g) Yes, \$4,654.12 in interest has been paid by the department since Estimates 2014.
- h) The general interest charge daily rate of 0.02519126 per cent for January – March 2016 as published on the Australian Taxation Office website is being used to calculate interest payments.