

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 4 JUNE 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Government Payment of Accounts

Question reference number: HS 64

Senator: Smith

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) 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)?
- b) 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)
- c) 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?
- d) 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.
- b) The Department only maintains 30 day payment statistics for suppliers that self identify as small businesses (less than 20 staff). Year to date (to 31 May 2013) 30 day payment statistics for this group of suppliers are provided below.

	30 days	31-44 days	45-60 days	>60 days	Total
# of invoices	92,850	1,343	439	509	95,141
% of invoices	97.6%	1.4%	0.5%	0.5%	100.0%
Value	\$98,561,295	\$4,196,934	\$1,626,979	\$997,364	\$105,382,572
% of Value	93.5%	4.0%	1.5%	0.9%	100.0%

- c) Yes, \$12,553.71 in interest has been paid by the Department this financial year to small businesses.
- d) The general interest charge daily rate of 0.02726027% for April – June 2013 as advised in the Finance Circular and published on the Australian Taxation Office website is being used to calculate interest payments.