

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2016**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Australia Council**

**Question No: 173(g)**

**Australia Council**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 19/02/2016**

**Topic: Government payments of accounts**

**Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:**

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

1. What has been the average time period for the department/agency paid its accounts to contractors, consultants or others?
2. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in under 30 days?
3. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 30 and 60 days?
4. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 60 and 90 days?
5. How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in between 90 and 120 days?) How many payments owed (as a number and as a percentage of the total) have been paid in over 120 days?
6. 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?
7. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

1. 14 days.
2. 99 per cent. There was a total of 2,689 payments during this period excluding credit card transactions and 99 per cent were paid within 30 days of being entered into the system. On average payments were paid within 3 days of being entered into the system.
3. 1 per cent. Refer response to question 2 above.
4. Nil.
5. Nil.
6. No.
7. Not applicable.