

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

**Question: BET 921**

**Topic: Government Payments of Accounts (PC)**

**Hansard Page: Written (Received from Committee 13 June 2012)**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

921. 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)?
- a) 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)
  - b) 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?
  - c) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

**Answer:**

- 921.
- a) For the financial year to 31 May 2012, 99% of accounts have been paid within 30 days of a correctly rendered invoice. With respect to the 1% of payments not paid within 30 days, delays are mainly associated with receipt of incorrect or incomplete invoices and/or differences in respect of the amounts charged or services provided. All suppliers identified as small businesses were paid within 30 days.
  - b) There have been no claims for payment of interest on overdue accounts.
  - c) Not applicable.