

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

Question: AET 611 - 614

Topic: Government Payments of Accounts (ABS)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator BUSHBY asked:

611. 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
612. 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
613. 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?
614. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

611. Payments of accounts are made in line with Government policy in terms of time for payment of 30 days. The ABS paid 95% of all of its invoices within 30 days for the period 1 July to 31 January 2012.
- a. With respect to the remaining 5% of payments not paid within 30 days, the reasons for this include but are not limited to: (i) resolution of general queries before payment terms are satisfied; (ii) disputed invoice where there has been incorrect number of units / hours or unit cost / charge out rate; (iii) disputed invoice due to quality of work / services; (iv) non-valid tax invoices sent by the supplier; and (v) the misdirection of invoices to the procurer.
612. Payments of accounts are made in line with Government policy in terms of time for payment of 30 days.
613. No interest was charged or paid for the period 1 July to 31 January 2012.
614. N/A