

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

Question: AET 1532

Topic: Payment of Bills

Written: 6 March 2014

Senator WONG asked

1532. From 18 September 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)?
- 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)
 - 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?
 - Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

1532. The Department of Treasury follows government policy for payments of accounts within 30 days; however there can be instances where payment of accounts may be delayed.
- From 18 September 2013 to 28 February 2014, the Treasury paid 4,335 invoices to all suppliers within 30 days (97.8 per cent).
 - In accordance with Finance Circular 2012/02, Procurement On-Time Payment Policy for Small Business interest, a total of \$73.63 will be paid to three suppliers.
 - Where interest becomes available, it will be calculated in accordance with the Finance Circular 2012/02, Procurement On-Time Payment Policy for Small Business using the applicable General Interest Charges (GIC) rates.