

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 29 May 2006

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES  
**TOPIC:** PAYMENT OF BILLS BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS  
**REFERENCE:** HANSARD 29/05/06, PAGES E59-60

**QUESTION No.BI-24**

(Hansard 29/05/06, p.E59)

**Senator Campbell** asked about:

Do government departments and agencies sometimes pay bills in less than 30 days?

**ANSWER**

The Department of Finance and Administration Procurement Guidance provides that 'Agencies may negotiate payment terms shorter than 30 days at their discretion'.

As part of the payment performance survey conducted by the Office of Small Business, respondents are asked whether their department or agency negotiated any payment terms of less than 30 days during the reporting period. For the six months to the end of December 2005 26 of the 31 agencies reported negotiating payment terms of less than 30 days with suppliers.

**QUESTION No.BI-25**

(Hansard 29/05/06, p.E59)

**Senator Campbell** asked about:

Do you have any figures that show how many businesses were not paid within the time limit in 2004-05 and 2005-06?

**ANSWER**

A response to this question is provided in the response to question BI-85.

**QUESTION No.BI-26**

(Hansard 29/05/06, pp.E59-60)

**Senator Campbell** asked about:

Do you draw late payment of bills to the attention of agencies as well as departments?

**ANSWER**

Yes. The Australian Government's 30 day payment policy applies to *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act) agencies.