

## Senate Standing Committee on Economics

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 – 20 October 2011

Question No: SBT 273 - 274  
Topic: ABS Government Payments of Accounts  
Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

273. For the year 2010-11, did 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?

a) 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, was 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?

274. For the FYTD, 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,

a) 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:

273. Payments of accounts by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) are made in line with Government policy in terms of time for payment of 30 days.

a) The ABS paid 98% of all of its invoices within 30 days for the 2010-11 financial year.

b) With respect to the remaining 2% 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.

c) No interest was charged or paid during 2010-11.

274. Payments of accounts by the ABS are made in line with Government policy in terms of time for payment of 30 days.

a) The ABS paid 99% of all of its invoices within 30 days for the period 1 July to 30 September 2011.

b) With respect to the remaining 1% 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.

c) No interest was charged or paid for the period 1 July to 30 September 2011.