

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 – 20 October 2011

Question No: SBT 476 - 477

Topic: ACCC Government Payments of Accounts

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

476. 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?
477. 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:

476. Yes. The ACCC follows government policy for payment of accounts within 30 days, however occasionally there are instances where payment of accounts is delayed. For example, on occasion invoices are received late or in dispute or may be misplaced or not processed in a

timely manner. Processes are continually reviewed to minimise the incidence of these errors.

- a) Average is 23 Days
- b) No
- c) Not applicable

477. As at 30 September 2011, yes.

- a) Average is 21 Days
- b) No
- c) Not applicable