

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
17 October 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Government Payments of accounts

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: SI-162

1. For 2011-12, did the department/agency pay 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)
2. For accounts not paid within 30 days, is/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?
3. Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?
4. Have all accounts from 2011-12 been paid? If no, why not?

ANSWER

Please refer to AI-238 and BI-192 for details on government payments of accounts in the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012. Details on government payments of accounts in the period 1 June 2012 to 30 June 2012 is as follows:

1. The 'Procurement 30 Day Payment Policy for Small Business' ('the policy') outlined in Finance Circular 2008/10 only applies to *Financial Management and Accountability Act* agencies. Within the portfolio the policy applies to the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE), the Australia Research Council (ARC), IP Australia, Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) and Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA).

	DIISRTE	ARC	IP Australia	TEQSA	ASQA
Total invoices processed	11,160	26	481	143	388
Total number paid within 30 days	11,104	25	477	143	349
Total percentage paid within 30 days	99.50%	96%	99.17%	100%	90%
Total number not paid within 30 days	56	1	4	0	39
Total percentage not paid within 30 days	0.50%	4%	0.83%	0%	10%

Late payments are primarily the result of administrative delays, such as non-timely confirmation of receipt of goods or services before invoices are passed to the processing phase.

2. For the period 1 June 2012 to 30 June 2012, no invoices were received for interest on amounts not paid in line with the policy.
3. Not applicable.
4. DIISRTE, ARC, IP Australia, TEQSA, and ASQA have paid all accounts from 2011-12.