

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2013**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Government Payments of Accounts**

Question: **134**

Written **Senator Ryan**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 April 2013

- a) For this financial year 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)?
- b) 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)
- c) 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?
- d) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer

- a) No.
- b) Any late payment of accounts was due to internal processes and procedures, which have recently been updated and improved. This initiative commenced on 26 October 2012 and continues, and has resulted in only two invoices being paid more than 30 days in arrears for the period October–December 2012.

DPS Australian Government Payments to Small Business results this financial year to 31 December are detailed in the table below.

1 July 2012 - 31 December 2012	Paid within 30 days (paid on time)	Paid within 31-44 days (up to 14 days)	Paid within 45-60 days (up to 30 days)	Not paid within 60 days (30 or more days)	Total
Number of Invoices	703	36	12	12	763
Value of invoices	\$ 1,802,201	\$ 59,631	\$ 25,512	\$ 37,807	\$ 1,925,151

- c) As at 31 December 2012, no vendors had requested, and no interest had been paid, on accounts of more than 30 days in arrears.
- d) Not applicable, as interest has not been paid on any late payments.