

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-13

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian National Audit Office

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Government Payments of Accounts

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: 66

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- 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. The ANAO complies with Government policy in respect of supplier payment terms. Late payment can arise due to disputed invoices or clarification of goods or services rendered prior to making payment.
- b. Payments were made later than standard terms on 30 instances out of 1,611 invoices for YTD 31 January. Of these invoices 26 were paid within 60 days of being received. Three of the four invoices paid later than 60 days were due to the invoice being rendered prior to services being fully delivered. The fourth invoice required further clarification and confirmation of charges before payment was made.
- c. No interest was paid on overdue amounts for January YTD.
- d. Refer response to (c).