

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2010–11 (May 2010)

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET PORTFOLIO

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman
Topic: Reviews

Senator: Senator Barnett
Question reference number: PM 70
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

Number of pages: One

- a) **Has the portfolio/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (ie within 30 days)? If not, why not, and 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:

- a) Yes, the office has paid its accounts to contractors/consultancies in accordance with Finance Circular 2008-10. For the financial year 2008–09 and financial year-to-date 2009–10 the office has paid the majority of invoices for contractors/consultancies within 30 days. Of the 126 invoices processed a total of 8 were not paid within 30 days. This represents 6.3% of these invoices. In general, invoices were not paid within 30 days because a correctly rendered invoice was not received.
- b) No, the vendors in question were not paid interest.
- c) N/A