

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman
Outcome/Program: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman
Topic: Government payment of accounts

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 97

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. 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)?
 - a. 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)
 - 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:

1. Consistent with Government policy, the Office aims to pay all contractors and consultants within 30 days. We are not aware of any payment to contractors or consultants that have not met this timeframe. Our systems do not currently enable reporting on related specific details.