

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010

Question: PM127

Asked By: Senator Abetz

Topic: Government Payments of Accounts

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

Number of pages: 2

- a) **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)? 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) For 2009-10, the department paid 98.6% of supplier invoices to small business within 30 days, compared to the Australian Government's target of 90%.
- b) No interest has been paid by the department for any overdue accounts.
- c) No interest has been paid.

Note: The responses above relate to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as it was established prior to the 14 September machinery of government changes. As a result of the Machinery of Government changes,

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PM&C has acquired the functions of parts of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (Office of the Arts), the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Department of Health and Ageing (Office for Sport). Any supplier invoices paid by the previous agencies which relate to these Offices are not included in this response.