

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: arts portfolio agencies

Outcome/Program: various

Topic: Government Payments of Accounts

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 143A

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

Number of pages: 3

Question:

1. For the year 2010-11, did 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.)

? For accounts not paid within 30 days, was 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?

? Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

2. For the FYTD, 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.)

? 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?

? Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

The Australia Council

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The Australia Council's policy is to pay all accounts within a 30 day period and it endeavours to do so. To attempt to provide any further detail on any late payments would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources. No interest has been paid on accounts in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA)

As a Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (CAC) entity the NFSA is not required to comply with the 30 day policy. However, the NFSA pays all accounts within 30 days and where possible earlier for small businesses and sole traders.

National Gallery of Australia

1. Yes. As a standard practice, the Gallery pays all accounts in accordance with their payment terms.
2. Yes. As a standard practice, the Gallery pays all accounts in accordance with their payment terms.

National Library of Australia

1. For the year 2010-11 98.3% of invoices were paid within 30 days of receipt of the invoice. Efforts continue to reduce the percentage of invoices that are not paid within 30 days.
 - Payment of interest for amounts not paid within 30 days is prescribed by Finance Circular 2008/10 and applies only to *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* agencies. The National Library is an authority under the *Commonwealth Companies and Authorities Act 1999* and therefore this requirement does not apply to the Library.
 - Not applicable.
2. For the period 1 July to 30 September 2011 99.1% of invoices have been paid within 30 days of receipt of the invoice.
 - Payment of interest for amounts not paid within 30 days is prescribed by Finance Circular 2008/10 and applies only to *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* agencies. The National Library is an authority under the *Commonwealth Companies and Authorities Act 1999* and therefore this requirement does not apply to the Library.
 - Not applicable.

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National Museum of Australia (NMA)

1. Government policy does not apply to CAC Act bodies. The NMA follows the intent to pay all accounts within 30 days.
2. See response to question 1.

Screen Australia

1. Yes. As a standard practice, Screen Australia pays all accounts in accordance with their payment terms. These are typically less than 30 days.
2. Yes. As a standard practice, Screen Australia pays all accounts in accordance with their payment terms. These are typically less than 30 days.