

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2012

## Answers to Questions on Notice

### Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Government payment of accounts FYTD**

Question: **204**

Written **Senator Ryan**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 November 2012**

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)?

- 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)
- 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

No.

- This was due to ineffective procedures, which are now being addressed by the development of an internal policy and improved procedures. This initiative commenced on 26 October 2012 and will be fully implemented before the end of the calendar year.

DPS Australian Government Payments to Small Business results this financial year to 30 September are detailed in the table below.

<b>1 July 2012– 30 September 2012</b>	<b>Paid within 30 days</b> (paid on time)	<b>Paid within 31–44 days</b> (up to 14 days late)	<b>Paid within 45–60 days</b> (up to 30 days late)	<b>Not paid within 60 days</b> (30 or more days late)	<b>Total</b>
Number of invoices	321	13	4	10	348
Value of invoices \$	648,402	24,667	3,958	37,702	714,729

- As at 30 September 2012, no vendors had requested, and no interest had been paid, on accounts of more than 30 days in arrears. The new 60 days in arrears interest payment policy—where DPS is required to pay the vendor interest on any accounts that are 60 days and over—commenced on 1 September 2012, reference Finance Circular 2012/02.
- Not applicable.