

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### (AE12/0105) Program: Internal Product

Senator Humphries asked:

For the 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, 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:*

#### Department of Immigration and Citizenship

In the financial year to date, 31 January 2012, 81 per cent of all payments were made within departmental policy of 30 days.

<b>Payment Days</b>	<b>No. of invoices</b>	<b>% of payments</b>
Paid within 30 days	40 480	81%
Paid within 31-44 days	8 063	16%
Paid within 45-60 days	729	1%
Paid on or after 61 days	983	2%
<b>Total Number of Invoices</b>	<b>50 255</b>	<b>100%</b>

The main reasons some payments are not made within 30 days are:

- Invoices in dispute are not paid until resolution;
- Invoices can arrive late or be lost in transit; and
- Invoices sent to DIAC officers in remote locations for checking and verification sometimes take longer than 30 days to be finalised.

The department has not paid any penalty interest on late payments to any business in the previous financial years or the financial year to date, 31 January 2012.

Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal

In the financial year to date, 31 January 2012, MRT/RRT has made payments on all invoices within 30 days, except for suppliers with who a shorter term is agreed.

MRT/RRT has not paid any penalty interest on late payments to any business in the previous financial years of the financial year to date, 31 January 2012.