

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 26-27 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(122) Program: Internal Product

Senator Barnett asked:

- (1) Has the portfolio/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (ie. 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.
- (2) 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?
- (3) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

Answer:

- (1) The Department has paid its accounts to contractors / consultants in accordance with Government policy.

The following table provides the statistics for the 2008-09 financial year and the year to date figures for the current year.

Period	Number of Invoices			
	Paid within 30 days	Paid outside 30 days	Total number paid	No. paid outside 30 days
1 July 2009 – 31 May 2010	96.0%	4.0%	3702	150
1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009	93.2%	6.8%	7391	505

- (2) The Department has not received claims for interest by small business in the current or previous financial year.
- (3) No interest was paid in the current or previous financial year.