

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(436) Program: Internal Product

Senator Barnett asked:

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.

Answer:

Government policy mandates that Australian Government agencies must pay small businesses within 30 days of receiving a correctly rendered invoice and reach a benchmark of 90% compliance with this policy.

The Department has achieved the 90% benchmark as shown in the table below for the 2009–10 financial year and for the current financial year to 31 October 2010.

Period	Number of Invoices			
	Paid within 30 days	Paid outside 30 days	Total number paid	Number paid outside 30 days
1 July 2010 – 31 October 2010	91.2%	8.8%	1,183	104
1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010	95.2%	4.8%	5,435	262