

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 October 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

##### (SE11/0041): Internal Product

Senator Humphries (L&CA written) asked:

For the year 2010-11, did the Department/Agency pay 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:*

##### Department of Immigration and Citizenship

In the financial year 2010-11, 83 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	62 642	83%
Paid within 31-44 days	9 860	13%
Paid within 45-60 days	982	1%
Paid on or after 61 days	2 126	3%
<b>Total Number of Invoices</b>	<b>75 610</b>	

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

- Invoices in dispute are not paid until resolution, which can go longer than the 30 days;
- Where officers responsible for checking and approving an invoice are not readily available;
- 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.

##### Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal

All payments by MRT/RRT in the financial year 2010-11 were made within agency policy of 30 days.