

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group Corporate

Question No. 97

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 18 November 2013:

Government payments of accounts

- a) From 7 September 2013 to date, has the department paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (i.e. within 30 days)?
- b) 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)
- c) For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the department for the current financial year and the previous financial year?
- d) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) The Attorney-General's Department has paid its accounts to all suppliers in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment, with the exception of a small number of accounts.
- b) Occasionally there may be unavoidable delays in processing payments, for example in verifying the satisfactory completion of work. For the period 7 September to 18 November 2013, 97.85% of payments were made within 30 days. For the remaining 2.15 % more than half were paid within 1 to 14 days after the due date.
- c)-d) No claims for interest payment on overdue amounts have been received by the department.