

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, CREDITORS

1517. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Premier; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs; Science; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

For each Department and Agency within the Premier's portfolio, will the Premier provide from each agency or department financial system -

- (a) the amount and number of creditors outstanding for less than or equal to 30 days, as at 30 June 2001;
- (b) the amount and number of creditors outstanding for greater than 30 days and less than or equal to 60 days, as at 30 June 2001;
- (c) the amount and number of creditors outstanding for greater than 60 days and less than or equal to 90 days, as at 30 June 2001;
- (d) the amount and number of creditors outstanding for greater than 90 days and less than or equal to 120 days, as at 30 June 2001;
- (e) the amount and number of creditors outstanding for greater than 120 days, as at 30 June 2001;
- (f) the amount and number of creditors outstanding for less than or equal to 30 days, as at 30 June 2002;
- (g) the amount and number of creditors outstanding for greater than 30 days and less than or equal to 60 days, as at 30 June 2002;
- (h) the amount and number of creditors outstanding for greater than 60 days and less than or equal to 90 days, as at 30 June 2002;
- (i) the amount and number of creditors outstanding for greater than 90 days and less than or equal to 120 days, as at 30 June 2002; and
- (j) the amount and number of creditors outstanding for greater than 120 days, as at 30 June 2002?

Dr G.I. GALLOP replied:

- (a)-(j) The information being sought by the Member is not readily available.

I would advise that information systems used in agencies are designed to address operational and statutory requirements and don't necessarily facilitate the ready provision of the information being sought by the Member.

However, in April 2001 the Labor Government honoured its election commitment to reinstate the 30-day payment period that was extended to up to eight weeks by the Coalition Government. This decision benefited thousands of Western Australian small businesses by effectively halving the time some businesses were forced to wait for payment.

Under current Government policy, except where the terms or conditions of a contract provide for alternate arrangements, all payments are to be made within 30 days of the receipt of the creditors claim or provision of the goods or services.