

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - CREDITORS -
NUMBER AND AMOUNT OUTSTANDING

2562. Mr T.R. Buswell to the Minister representing the Minister for Child Protection; Communities; Women's Interests; Seniors and Volunteering

For each Department and Agency within the Minister's portfolios:

- (a) what was the amount and number of creditors outstanding for less than or equal to 30 days as at 30 June 2007;
- (b) what was the amount and number of creditors outstanding for less than or equal to 60 days as at 30 June 2007;
- (c) what was the amount and number of creditors outstanding for less than or equal to 90 days as at 30 June 2007;
- (d) what was the amount and number of creditors outstanding for less than or equal to 120 days as at 30 June 2007; and
- (e) what was the amount and number of creditors outstanding more than 120 days as at 30 June 2007?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

The Department for Communities became operational on 1 July 2007. During the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 the Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering, the Office for Women's Policy and the Family and Domestic Violence Policy Unit formed part of the Department for Community Development (and later in the year the Department for Child Protection). As such details of outstanding creditors for these three policy offices forms part of the answer.

The Department and each Office makes every effort to pay creditors within 30 days, however there are circumstances under which this is not possible. Examples, which are reflected in the figures provided below are:

- Accounts in Dispute - accounts are not approved for payment until any dispute is resolved. This may involve clarification of GST issues, payee details, questions on goods/services provided and funding arrangements.
- Payments for client support services - caseworkers receive invoices, however due to the priority of workload, in some instances payment of accounts is slow. Accounts received by the Department for payment that have not had a client funding plan in place sometimes result in a delay in payment.
- A number of teething issues arose with the payment of accounts to a significant creditor due to a change with their ownership and resultant accounts processes.
- Incorrect recording - The date an invoice is received into the Department or Office is that which is recorded in the finance system. Testing has indicated that sometimes these dates are incorrectly recorded or sourced from incorrect field of information, extending the reported payment timeframes.

Department for Child Protection

- (a) 873 Creditors valued at \$929,469.20
- (b) 298 Creditors valued at \$447,046.83
- (c) 85 Creditors valued at \$99,744.02
- (d) 32 Creditors valued at \$19,641.22
- (e) 27 Creditors valued at \$27,341.56

Office for Women's Policy

- 2 Creditors valued at \$112.15
- (f) 2 Creditors valued at \$46.33
 - (c)-(e) None

Office for Seniors and Volunteering

5 Creditors valued at \$6,054.58

(b)-(e) None

Department for Communities

(a)-(e) Not applicable.