

Question on Notice
No. 912
Asked on 19 August 2004

MR MESSENGER asked the Minister for Education and the Arts (Ms Bligh) -

QUESTION:

With reference to overpayments and duplicate payments to contractors and service providers for each of the last two financial years and for the year to date, will she provide a list of (a) all occurrences of overpayments and duplicate payments including the date and amount of the overpayment and the date in which the overpayment was repatriated to the department, (b) the name of the organisation which the overpayment was made and (c) any disciplinary action taken, or any findings of misconduct as a result of the overpayment or duplicate payments?

ANSWER:

Details of all overpayments and duplicate payments for each of the last two financial years and for the year to date, including the name of the organisation, date of the duplicate or overpayment and date when the repayment occurred, are documented in the attached list.

The vast majority of overpayments and duplicate payments have been repaid within a month and efforts are being made to recover the remaining few outstanding.

The average number of the overpayments and duplicate payments represents approximately 0.095% of all payments made for services, supplies and capital works in the Department of Education and the Arts and approximately 0.065% by dollar value.

In order to identify any duplicate or overpayments the following action is taken -

- A report is run monthly and checked to identify any anomalies
- Any items identified are then fully investigated
- If a duplicate/overpayment has occurred the vendor is contacted in writing requesting a refund.

Following investigations, no disciplinary action or findings of misconduct resulted from any of these overpayments or duplicate payments.

Most duplicate and overpayments are a result of human error. In most cases the payment has been made to the wrong vendor. There are also examples of having two vendor numbers for the same supplier and therefore two invoices, and payment has been made to both vendor numbers as a result.

Duplicate Payments - 2002/03

VENDOR NAME	AMT OF PYMT	DATE OF OVERPAYMENT	REPAYMENT DATE
McDonald Charter Boats	256.00	5.7.02	24.7.02
Qld Council of P & C Assn	25.30	5.7.02	5.8.02
Television & Audio Service Centre	75.00	29.7.02	31.7.02
Kingaroy Freight Express	8.80	29.7.02	30.10.02
Quest Newspapers	1,335.09	22.7.02	8.8.02 & 30.8.02
Helensvale Community Centre Association Inc	99.00	5.8.02	22.8.02
Bowden Computer Placements	2,016.85	8.7.02	20.9.02
Holiday Inn - Brisbane	159.55	26.7.02	21.8.02
Q-Build	151.80	12.8.02	2.10.02
Jim's Mowing Kirwan West	110.00	16.8.02	17.08.02
Intercity Cleaning Supplies P/L	14.85	16.9.02	25.9.02
Chifley on George	706.25	4.10.02	16.10.02
J & H Cleaning Equipment Service P/L	50.50	13.9.02	22.10.02
Garden City Commercial Repairs	244.47	16.9.02	21.10.02
Qld Catholic Education Commission	308.00	11.10.02	23.10.02
Polivac	373.12	15.11.02	26.11.02
State Reporting Bureau	232.20	9.12.02	16.12.02
OZHIRE	159.50	6.12.02	9.12.02
DJ Marshall Medical Pty	505.00	6.12.02	13.01.03
Spotless Services	242.00	6.01.03	28.01.03
South Coast School Sport	30.00	23.12.02	28.01.03
South Coast School Sport	670.00	6.01.03	28.01.03
Ross Group of Companies	1,002.54	23.12.02	7.02.03
Shockproof Electrical	43.45	15.1.03	Not refunded @ 10.9.04
Croydon Club Hotel	961.50	24.2.03	7.3.03
Jonesy's Takeaway	208.90	24.2.03	18.3.03
Bundaberg City Council (Moncrieff Theatre)	2,410.42	10.3.03	18.3.03

Duplicate Payments - 2002/03

VENDOR NAME	AMT OF PYMT	DATE OF OVERPAYMENT	REPAYMENT DATE
Queensland Health	3,099.50	10.3.03	18.3.03
On Time Copy Centres	615.00	21.2.03	4.4.03
Crown Law	2,102.51	19.3.03	28.3.03
Copy Print Express	26.20	26.3.03	4.4.03
Australia Go Pty Ltd	2,257.50	17.3.03	28.11.03
Central Qld Uni	37.40	28.3.03	23.4.03
Avis	106.71	9.9.02	28.4.03
AIM	198.00	4.4.03	24.4.03
Project Services	1,787.50	14.4.03	28.4.03
Det-Drug Education Unit	8.00	17.4.03	9.5.03
QFLEET	975.50	16.04.03	15.5.03
BEAUDESERT TIMES	28.44	2.5.03	19.5.03
AUSCO BUILDING SYSTEMS	14,732.30	30.05.03	30.06.03
MERCURE	2,054.40	4.06.03	19.06.03
RIVERGLEN	150.00	6.06.03	7.7.03
FIONA WATSON	1,295.00	26.05.03	11.6.03
Project Services	2,252.61	6.06.03	10.7.03
DRAKE	727.37	20.06.03	16.7.03
MINI-TANKERS	324.08	30.06.03	2.7.03
BRAD JOHNSTON & ASSOC	132.00	30.06.03	30.7.03
RUSTIC CRUST CATERING	128.70	16.07.03	27.08.03
CORAL COAST ELECTRICAL	22.00	30.06.03	16.7.03

Duplicate Payments - 2003/04

04/82553

VENDOR NAME	AMT OF PYMT	DATE OF OVERPAYMENT	REPAYMENT DATE
ELECTROBOARD	3,999.00	9.7.03	8.8.03
DEPT. OF FAMILIES	4,235.00	18.07.03	24.7.03
DEPT.NATURAL RESOURCE - IPSWICH	120.00	28.7.03	31.7.03
DAMOVO (AUST) P/L	7,296.43	1.08.03	17.10.03
LOCKYER SURVEY SERVICES	1,953.60	28.7.03	26.8.03
LONGREACH MOTOR INN	510.00	2.07.03	12.9.03
QLD ASSOC GIFTED & TALENTED CHILDREN	1,100.00	18.08.03	3.9.03
SAPPHIRE RESORT	617.80	20.8.03	4.9.03
ACTIVE MEDICAL SUPPLIES	234.85	25.8.03	26.9.03
RYDGES - CAPRICORN RESORT	500.00	4.7.03	12.11.03
GARDEN CITY COMMERCIAL REPAIRS	885.34	26.9.03	10.11.03
Husdon Global Resources	980.42	15.10.03	29.12.03
Office of the Public Service, Merit and Equity (See Note 2)	21,514.67	3.10.03	14.10.03
Torres Centre of School Management, Operations Systems	38.50	12.9.03	18.12.03
Vacspare	411.13	11.04.03	28.10.03
Brad Johnson & Assoc	132.00	30.6.03	30.7.03
Barbara Blake	2,000.00	16.07.03	3.11.03
Royal Pines Resort	2,391.18	11.7.03	20.11.03
Andrew Whittle c/o St Vincents Medical Centre	117.79	20.10.03	17.11.03
Kirran Follers	252.00	22.10.03	12.3.04
Musgrave Street Family Practice	45.00	27.10.03	5.12.03
Qbuild	16,914.70	28.11.03	15.12.03
Hanley Industrial Enterprises	230.11	10.12.03	23.12.03
Toshiba	1,206.70	22.12.03	27.1.04
Russell Bauer	67.26	1.03.03	12.3.04
Geraldine Brenton	6,840.50	17.12.03	5.2.04

Duplicate Payments - 2003/04

04/82553

VENDOR NAME	AMT OF PYMT	DATE OF OVERPAYMENT	REPAYMENT DATE
Centrelink	905.16	4.2.04	25.2.04
Brisbane City Council	10,227.33	4.2.04	11.2.04
Qbuild (See Note 3)	577,284.20	24.12.03	26.1.04
Dimmey's Ipswich Plaza News	36.00	18.02.04	Not refunded @ 10.9.04
James Cook Uni (See Note 4)	22,000.00	11.02.04	04.03.04
Project Services	479.97	18.2.04	24.2.04
QLD University of Technology - Student Fees Office (See Note 5)	143,859.10	4.2.04	27.2.04
FRASER-COOLoola DISTRICT (YARRALEE SS) \$315.85	315.85	13.2.04	30.03.04
QUEENSLAND MOTORWAYS	20.20	2.2.04	1.3.04
Assessment Services in Psychology	165.00	23.2.04	3.3.04
QBuild	8,310.20	29.3.04	27.4.04
Dep Nat Resources	273.95	15.03.04	2.4.04
Coates Prestige	2,855.60	26.3.04	14.4.04
Armarc Shire Council	596.25	2.4.04	28.4.04
Q Build	66.00	28.4.04	2.6.04
Denise Hodges	760.00	7.5.04	19.5.04
Carol Thompson	162.86	4.5.04	23.07.04
Workcover	1,209.00	26.5.04	9.6.04
Harristown SS	1,287.56	28.05.04	11.6.04
City Printing Works	1,067.00	28.05.04	11.6.04
Caloundra Vaccum Cleaner Centre	1,422.60	2.6.04	16.6.04
Southbank Hotel & Convention Centre	300.00	2.6.04	Not refunded @ 10.9.04
Japanese Exchange Programme	613.25	2.6.04	5.7.04
The Greek Club & Convention Centre	4,455.00	26.5.04	17.6.04

Duplicate Payments - 2003/04

04/82553

VENDOR NAME	AMT OF PYMT	DATE OF OVERPAYMENT	REPAYMENT DATE
Intercity Cleaning	1,409.76	11.6.04	21.7.04
QBUILD	84.26	16.6.04	30.6.04
AAB Equipment	106.15	16.6.04	25.6.04
Westminster Printing	957.00	18.6.04	28.6.04
NEC Business Sys	479.77	25.06.04	21.7.04
Shailer Construction (See Note 6)	79,026.23	25.06.04	Not refunded @ 10.9.04
Harris Fields SS	242.00	30.06.04	Not refunded @ 10.9.04
Toll Fast	48.73	26.6.04	Not refunded @ 10.9.04
SDS	389.96	25.2.04 & 3.3.04	Not refunded @ 10.9.04
SDS Express	91.01	5.3.04	Not refunded @ 10.9.04
SMS Consulting Group Limited (See Note 7)	57,827.00	July 2000 to Oct 2003	9.7.04

Note 2

Duplicate payment authorities issued by different Departmental Business Units, were forwarded to Accounts Payable on 31 March 2003 and 2 October 2003. Data entry to each vendor (by two different people) caused the overpayment.

Note 3

The invoices raised and payments made by the Department to QBuild during the beginning of each financial year are based on previous year expenditure. When QBuild are able to accurately determine the amount owed by Education Queensland adjusted invoices are provided. These adjustments are reflected as Credits or additional payments to QBuild

Note 4.

The Departmental Business Unit forwarded duplicate copies of payment authority to Accounts Payable on 27 January 2004 and 6 February 2004. Data entry to each vendor (by two different people) caused the overpayment.

Note 5

The Departmental Business Unit forwarded duplicate copies of payment authority to Accounts Payable on 30 January 2004 and 9 February 2004. Data entry to each vendor caused the overpayment. One of these vendors has now been 'blocked' for data entry.

Note 6

The Department made a payment to Shailer Constructions under a construction contract. That payment should have been made to the District Court due to a subcontractor lodging a charge against Shailer Constructions. Under the charge, the Department was then required to pay the same amount to the Court. The subcontractor then withdrew the charge, making the original payment to Shailer Constructions valid. The Court will refund the Department for the duplicate payment following legal process.

Note 7

SMS Consulting Group Ltd incorrectly overcharged the Department by adding GST to the cost of its services, contrary to the Standing Offer Arrangement, which quoted services inclusive of GST. The overcharging was detected through an audit inquiry.

Duplicate Payments - 2004/05

VENDOR NAME	AMT OF PYMT	DATE OF OVERPAYMENT	REPAYMENT DATE
Aust Post	3,712.14	09.07.04	23.7.04
Ridgemill (See Note 1)	91,016.15	14.07.04	20.7.04
Qld Studies Authority	55.00	14.07.04	Not refunded @ 10.9.04

Note 1. The project Director, Ridgmill Pty Ltd issued a final completion certificate on their business letterhead indicating payment was due to the contractor, N H Dickenson Pty Ltd. When entering the invoice payment details the operator entered Ridgmill as the payee in error.