

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2016-2017 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities**

**Question No: SQ17-000254**

**Topic: 1800RESPECT**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Louise Pratt asked:**

What steps is the minister taking to ensure MHS' tender process will meet the same standards as would apply if the Commonwealth was conducting the procurement?

**Answer:**

It is the responsibility of Medibank Health Solutions (MHS) to conduct the tender process for the subcontracting arrangements to deliver the trauma specialist counselling service. MHS' tender is not a Commonwealth tender process.

MHS advised the Department that it has legal and procurement teams overseeing the tender process. MHS is following strict probity requirements set by an independent probity adviser engaged to oversee the procurement. MHS has also engaged a clinical expert from the community sector who has direct experience in delivering domestic and family violence support services to provide advice and expertise as part of the procurement process.