

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Topic:** 1800-RESPECT

**Senator:** Waters

**Question reference number:** 9

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 7 July 2017

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator WATERS:** Thank you. Just regarding that tender process: there seems to be a lack of clarity—I am hoping you can disabuse me or perhaps or set the record straight. Who has asked for the review of the tender—is it the minister, the department or MHS? Does anybody know?

**Ms McIntyre:** Review of the tender?

**Senator WATERS:** Yes. The fact that they are even undertaking this exercise at all.

**Ms McIntyre:** So the current funding was coming to an end, and this is a normal government process to put new funding in place.

**Senator WATERS:** The funding does not end for another two years, so I do not understand.

**Ms McIntyre:** Is that the funding for Medibank Health Services?

**Senator WATERS:** It is the contract that MHS then basically subcontracts down—and they do that at the moment to RDVSA, if I am getting that acronym correct. I understand that MHS is currently reviewing that subcontract.

**Senator Cash:** It is not a government tender—

**Senator WATERS:** It is not the head contract, which is still on foot for another two years, so I am wondering why MHS are doing that and at whose behest.

**Ms McIntyre:** I can take it on notice but my notes say that the subcontract does expire on 30 June 2017. That is my understanding, but I can check that.

**Answer:**

The Department of Social Services (DSS) contracts Medibank Health Solutions (MHS) to deliver 1800RESPECT and MHS subcontracts Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia (R&DVSA) to provide the trauma specialist-counselling component of the service.

This subcontract between MHS and R&DVSA expires on 30 June 2017.

In February 2017, MHS announced they were undertaking a tender process for the trauma specialist-counselling subcontract. All aspects of this tender process including the decision to tender, the tender plan and the timeframes are the responsibility of MHS.