

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000592

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Regulation, Safety and Protection

**Topic:** Special Access Scheme

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 103, 29 May 2017

**Senator:** Singh, Lisa

**Question:**

Senator SINGH: So what is the average time for all applications?

Dr Skerritt: I do not have the figures with me. We would have to take on notice the time that it is with the actual doctors.

**Answer:**

The average time taken for a Special Access Scheme Category B medicinal Cannabis application to be approved (From 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2016 to 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2017):

Average overall time (Including weekends)	11 days
Average time (Business days only)	8.8 days
Average TGA processing time (Business days)	2.7 days

Please note that the difference between average processing time of 8.8 days and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) processing time of 2.7 days is that the 8.8 day timeframe is inclusive of time the application is pending while the prescriber provides more information in response to a request from the TGA. The 2.7 day timeframe is how long the application is with the TGA for action.