

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017**

**Ref No:** SQ17-000750

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

**Topic:** Medicinal cannabis - 1800 hotline

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Watt, Murray

**Question:**

- a) When will the TGA be establishing the 1800 phone number for medicinal cannabis?
- b) How many staff will be allocated to the hotline?
- c) How much funding has been allocated to the hotline?

**Answer:**

- a) The medicinal cannabis 1800 phone number was established on 22 February 2017 and as at 29 May 2017 there have been 54 calls to date.
- b) There are 2 full time staff allocated to the medicinal cannabis patient access area of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and part of their role is answering the 1800 medicinal cannabis phone number.
- c) Given the relatively low number of calls, dedicated funding has not been required to date.