

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ17-001043

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

**Topic:** Medicinal Cannabis

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

**Senator:** Di Natale, Richard

**Question:**

There are only 25 authorised prescribers for medicinal cannabis. How many prescriptions have each of them made (please break down), and for how many patients

**Answer:**

As part of Authorised Prescriber conditions of authorisation, six monthly reports are required to be sent to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) which indicate:

- (a) The number of patients commenced on treatment.
- (b) The number of patients continued on treatment.

Please note as the next periodic reports are not due until 30 June 2017, the information presented reflects information from July to December 2016 only.

Out of the 22 Authorised Prescribers given authorisation in 2016, all have submitted their periodic reports for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016. The information received indicates that a total of 41 patients have commenced treatment with 37 patients continuing treatment as a result of improvement. The reports do not provide information on the number of prescriptions provided but rather on the number of patients and whether the patients continue to be prescribed the product.