

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-001044

OUTCOME: 5 - Regulation, Safety and Protection

Topic: Medicinal Cannabis

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

Of the 89 approved Special Access Scheme prescriptions for medicinal cannabis, please break down which state they were made in. How many patients in total have received prescriptions?

Answer:

From 7 May 1992 to 26 May 2017 – The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved 89 applications under Special Access Scheme Category B (SASB).

State/Territory	Number of approvals
NSW	22
QLD	9
VIC	51
TAS	1
WA	5
NT	0
ACT	0
SA	1

Given SASB relates to an application submitted by an individual doctor on behalf of an individual patient, the number of approvals is indicative of the number of patients who were granted approval. However, noting that there may also be other requirements to be met there is no guarantee that a TGA SASB approval always leads to treatment of the patient.