

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Topic:** Working Women's Centres

**Senator:** Moore, Claire

**Question reference number:** 56

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 27 February 2017, page 104

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 13 April 2017

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator MOORE: I have a number of questions around the working women's centres in terms of the role of the Office for Women. I know that there have been discussions going on there. I put on notice that I really want to know what intervention and what support is being provided to the Queensland working women's centre. As you know, the other two have got funding and will be happily operating into the future, but I think Queensland is closing. I think from the Office for Women's perspective and industrial relations that is an absolute tragedy. I have some questions around that.

I also want to quickly put on record questions about the tender process that happened for 1800RESPECT. I want to know what engagement or knowledge the Office for Women or the minister had about the four days that were given to 1800RESPECT to tender for the work they had been doing.

Senator Cash: We will take that on notice for you.

...

Senator Cash: It is actually run out of DSS and Minister Porter is responsible for that. If there is something we could get to you—you said that the questions are urgent—I can go back to Minister Porter's office now and see what information we can get you. I am more than happy to do that for you.

Senator McALLISTER: I guess it is that you are the Minister for Women. There is a rather hot public discussion happening about the nature of the tendering process that is being undertaken by Medibank Private. You have no view to offer this evening?

Senator Cash: Other than it would be done in accordance with whatever the rules are and I would have to speak to Minister Porter.

Senator MOORE: We would appreciate it if you could speak to Minister Porter and raise the urgency of that.

Senator Cash: Yes, I will speak to him now.

**Answer:**

1800 RESPECT

The four-day timeframe in the tender documentation refers to the period of time given to organisations to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). The EOI process was then followed by a formal tender process of approximately one month. The management of the sub-contract and tender process is a matter for Medibank Health Solutions (who hold the contract for 1800RESPECT), not for the Government.

Further questions should be directed to the Department of Social Services.