

Dear Fattimah,

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) thanks the Senate Community Affairs References Committee for the opportunity to present at the public hearing for *Access to diagnosis and treatment for people in Australia with tick-borne diseases*. Our representative, Dr Gary Deed, agreed to take on notice to provide information on what would be valuable and worthwhile to best support people in Australia with tick-borne diseases. Please see our responses to the Questions on Notice below.

Senator PRATT: What role might the college play in developing or even putting its hand up to lead such a process?

The RACGP typically focusses its limited resources on producing clinical guidelines in areas of practice that GPs most commonly encounter each day. As such, the development of tick-borne clinical guidelines would best sit with another organisation that has the resources to focus on this area and ability to undertake continuous evidence surveillance to update the guidance and recommendations accordingly. The area of tick-borne diseases is fast changing, and so it is important that clinical guidelines are well-resourced to undertake evidence reviews and synthesis on an ongoing basis. The RACGP would certainly provide a GP representative to provide expert advice on a clinical guideline development committee to ensure the guidelines were practical for use in general practice. The RACGP could also review any guideline for potential RACGP recognition/endorsement, see info on our website about [assessing external guidelines](#).

Senator KOVACIC: Does the RACGP collect or has it had any feedback from GPs on the usefulness of materials published on the Department of Health and Aged Care website as it relates particularly to DSCATT and how that assists GPs to actually improve diagnostic confidence, which you say is what GPs really want? How useful is that to a GP? What are people telling you?

The RACGP does not have any data about these resources. The Department of Health and Aged Care will be able to provide more specific information regarding page views and PDF downloads. The RACGP's initial [newsGP InPractice article](#) promoting the resources has had 3116 views since publication, demonstrating member interest in the topic. However, these numbers do not tell us how many GPs have accessed the DSCATT pathway and resources or if they found them valuable. In the current format, the associated PDF resources provide GPs with broad information and background about tick-borne illnesses in Australia. However, this format makes it difficult for GPs to use in a standard consultation with their patient. Until such time as an Australian clinical guideline is developed, it would be extremely helpful to have clinical summary documents for GPs to refer to when assessing patients with a suspected tick-borne illness.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions.

Kind Regards
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