From:

To: Community Affairs, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Senate enquiry - share your lyme story
Date: Friday, 18 December 2015 3:09:26 PM

Dear Sir/Madam.

In an effort to support lyme sufferers in Australia this email is my submission and attempt to tell my lyme story.

Any problems please let me know:

Age - 63

Public submission

I got lyme in 1994 in springwood NSW 2777

I already had ADD, and a mild form of chronic fatigue syndrome. At the time I was suffering from Glandular fever. I woke up one morning with a very large bullseye mark on my leg. I had no idea what it was: I thought I may have been bitten by a spider. It was the middle of summer. We have ticks in our area and my pet cats slept on the bed at night. Within weeks I was very, very sick. I had blistering headaches, I couldnt stand up for long and I couldnt take care of my family. I was a single mum and it was devastating. When I did stuggle out of bed to go to Doctors they had no idea what to do. Some were sympathetic but they had no answer others told me it was psychosomatic. It was 1994 so a lot of people in health care professions were suggesting it was trauma related and not a physical problem. One doctor told me there was nothing wrong with me a good jog around the block wouldnt cure another told me that you can make yourself sick by worrying too much about every ache and pain. These are Doctors at my local Medical clinic. No-one gave me anything further than regular health check ups and nothing showed up at all with those. Naturopaths told me I had Chronic fatigue syndrome. It wasnt until this year that I learnt it was lyme disease. Thats 20 years without a proper diagnosis. I have done 3 separate bioressonance tests confirming it and I have been told that just the bulleye mark to an informed person in confirmation enough. I have seen numerous Chronic fatigue specialists in the past and GP interested in CFS. No-one has every suggested there could be more to it. A kinesiologist was the first to suggest I may have lyme. When I read up on it I knew that was what I had. I cant work, I have only the pension as income so its a massive ask to hope to get over lyme now. I have so many allergies I cant cope with meds. and the lyme herbs. Lyme is a degenerative illness and being sick all the time makes for a hard life. I dont want this for anyone else. It has impacted in all my relationships and in everyway on the quality of life. Please recognise lyme in Australia and end this kind of suffering. You can get better if you are aware and get timely and correct treatment.