

# **PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Department of Health and Aged Care**

**Senate Community Affairs References Committee**

**Inquiry into access to diagnosis and treatment for people in Australia with tick-borne diseases.**

**29 January 2025**

**PDR Number: IQ25-000016**

**DSCATT grade system**

**Spoken**

**Hansard page number: 66**

**Senator: Linda Reynolds**

## **Question:**

Senator REYNOLDS: Given the time, could I ask you to come back to the committee with feedback on his observations about the lack of evidence based information and support and the fact that DSCATT doesn't use the grade system in terms of fidelity of information for GPs in terms of diagnosis and treatment. I ask you to come back and deal with those issues. On the face of it, it seemed very practical and common sense, so would you support that approach, and, if not, why not? Are you happy to do that?

Prof. Lum : Yes, we can do that. The DSCATT clinical pathway is an evidence based pathway but it does not go into the details of the quality of the evidence that was used.

Senator REYNOLDS: If you could, have a look at that and come back with more specifics. A lot of people said it should be scrapped and started again, but, if you were to enhance it, could it be enhanced with more specific information that the GPs are saying that they need for diagnosis and treatment? The final question on that is

## **Answer:**

The development of the DSCATT Clinical Pathway was informed by a detailed Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, which involved forums and written feedback from Government representatives, medical professionals and patient groups, including the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), and a comprehensive Literature Review, available on the Department's website at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au).

The Clinical Pathway is evidence based; the department is open to exploring whether there is further value in updating the Clinical Pathway to use the GRADE (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development, and Evaluations) process (or similar), and will discuss this with representatives from the RACGP.