

SENTATE ENQUIRY – MY STORY

My name is Marie Corby, I am now 49 years old [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

I am happy for my story to be made public.

In 2009, when I was a fit, healthy and hardworking/high functioning 43 year old woman I was bitten by a tick in my front yard (in the 2536 postcode area).

To say that that one bite completely changed my life's trajectory and health is a major understatement.

Approximately 3 weeks after that bite my partner and I were on holiday, travelling the Northern Territory of Australia. On a very sad but horrendously memorable day I was struck down with the most severe fatigue and chest pain. That agonising chest pain and ensuing illnesses had me visiting many hospitals, specialists and doctors to this day (approximately 5 hospital visits, 6 specialists, many general practitioners and numerous alternate medical professionals).

The chest pain, later diagnosed as Pericarditis was the first of many serious illnesses I was told I had up until a positive Lyme Disease diagnosis in 2012. I received the positive diagnosis from IGenex in California. I was later clinically diagnosed with the Lyme Co-infections of Babesia and Bartonella.

The illnesses diagnosed were: Pericarditis, Psoriatic Arthritis, Psoriasis, Costochondritis, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Endometriosis, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and now Fibromyalgia. I already had a kidney condition known as Glomerulphritis. My blood work consistently showed extremely high inflammatory markers and my Pyrroles and MTFHR Gene tests were markedly abnormal.

In 2010 I reduced my full time work to 2 days a week to try and seek answers for my illness. Then 2012 I increased my leave to 5 days a week as I could no longer work.

I commenced the harrowing treatment for Chronic Lyme Disease in 2013 and was on this up until June 2015 when I was required to take a break from high dose antibiotics. At the height of the treatment I was taking up to 46 pills a day and 2 injections a week.

After ceasing Lyme Treatment I am left with:

- My cognitive function remains impaired
- I am in constant pain

- I am unable to exercise due to severe chronic fatigue
- Chest pain and or discomfort is ever present
- I have wide spread active arthritis throughout my body
- I have permanent diarrhoea as a result of gut issues
- I have psoriasis in my ears
- I have sensitivity to light and sound
- I have severe Abdominal pain
- Shooting pains in my head/headaches
- Muscle weakness and twitching
- Etc etc etc

Prior to the onset of Lyme Disease I worked full time for the Department of Education and Training in a middle to senior Administration role. I also ran the Administration side of our personal Engineering and Muffler Business, we renovated homes and I managed a 15 acre property and gardens. I loved my busy and rewarding life and thrived on my 5 day a week training/fitness regime.

On top of all of this I have been treated critically by non-believers, told it was all in my head, told I was lazy and generally treated like a leper by some medical professions. Doctors have been dismissive and at times incredibly rude and demeaning towards me. I have attempted to explain my healthy active life pre Lyme to no avail.

Our financial situation has suffered, our quality of life has been severely affected, and our future remains uncertain, all as a result of a tick biting me and injecting a deadly bacteria into my veins.

I have gone through grief for my old life, anger, sadness and after all these years acceptance that my old life is gone forever.

The only reason that I continue to fight is as a result of my amazing family. Their unwavering support and dedication educating themselves on the disease saved my life. Many many times I have been suicidal as a result of this hideous disease and I will be forever grateful to have had the support that I know many Lyme sufferers do not have.

Please help us, I beg your help as we desperately understanding, education and above all humane treatment of the patient and this horrible, treatable illness.

Yours sincerely

Marie Corby

Lyme Sufferer