

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000209

OUTCOME: 3 - Access to Medical and Dental Services

Topic: Lyme Disease Testing

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Madigan, John

Question:

Which NATA accredited laboratories in Australia are testing for Lyme disease – including *B. burgdorferi*, *B. afzelii*, *B. garinii* – by Western blot as part of Medicare funded services?

Answer:

Whilst Western blot analysis may be performed under a range of items on the Medicare Benefits Schedule, there is no item specific to Western blot analysis. It is therefore not possible to determine which laboratories are performing testing for lyme disease.