

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000217

OUTCOME: 9 - Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: Lyme Disease

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Madigan, John

Question:

What pathology tests does Australia have to identify *Bartonella henselae*, *Neoehrlichia*'s spp., *Clostridium histolyticum*, *Rickettsia*, *Leptospira inadai* and *Babesias*, *Anaplasmas*, *Ehrlichia*, *Francisella*?

Answer:

The majority of bacteria and the protozoan referred to in the question can be identified in Australia. The in vitro diagnostic approaches to diagnosis would include culture on artificial growth media for some, as well as nucleic acid amplification assays for the more fastidious bacteria. Infections caused by some of the bacteria referred to in the question can also be diagnosed serologically.