

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014**

**Ref No:** SQ14-000519

**OUTCOME:** 7 - Health Infrastructure, Regulation, Safety and Quality

**Topic:** Lymes Disease in Australia

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Moore, Claire

**Question:**

Can the Department provide an update on the current process to review Lyme Disease in Australia?

- a) What were the dates and attendees at the roundtable discussions for the CMO review into Lymes Disease?
- b) What are the plans for making public any decisions or findings?

**Answer:**

a) and b)

Lyme Disease Treatment Round Table meeting

The Department of Health convened a Lyme Disease Treatment Round Table on Tuesday 27 May 2014 that brought together medical practitioners with a special interest in Lyme disease with other clinicians. The meeting provided a forum for open discussion on the current situation regarding Lyme disease in Australia and in particular, presenting symptoms and treatment regimes. The outcomes of the meeting are on the Department's website at [www.health.gov.au/lyme-disease](http://www.health.gov.au/lyme-disease). Given the personal and professional sensitivities associated with the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease, details of attendees have not been made public.

Clinical Advisory Committee on Lyme Disease in Australia

In early 2013, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) established the Clinical Advisory Committee on Lyme Disease in Australia (CACLD) which provided advice on diagnostic testing, treatment and further research requirements for Lyme disease in Australia. The CACLD comprises representatives drawn a range of professional organisations, advocacy groups and researchers. The CACLD met on five occasions: 19 March 2013; 28 May 2013; 3 September 2013; 27 November 2013, and 15 July 2014. The outcomes of all meetings are published at [www.health.gov.au/lyme-disease](http://www.health.gov.au/lyme-disease).

It is anticipated that any decisions or future findings by the CMO will be provided on the Department's website and circulated to the Chief Health Officers of each state and territory, to the Australian Medical Association and to presidents of relevant medical colleges.