

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000752

OUTCOME: 9 - Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: Lyme Disease

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Madigan, John

Question:

Evidence of a Lyme-like disease, characterised by a multi-systemic infection following tick bite, continues to mount in Australia. Indeed, the recent Murdoch study found multiple pathogens in Australian ticks. When is the government slated to officially name the infection(s) spread by ticks if it refuses to acknowledge that it could be accurately defined under the umbrella term of Lyme disease?

Answer:

Further research is required to determine if the microorganisms found by the Murdoch research team are pathogenic. The Australian Government is not involved in the nomenclature of biological entities nor diseases.