

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000754

OUTCOME: 9 - Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: Lyme Disease

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Madigan, John

Question:

According to the Deutsche Borreliose-Gesellschaft (German Borreliosis Society), tick borne infections can mimic neurological and mental diseases, diseases of the muscular and skeletal systems and cardiovascular diseases. As a diagnostic case definition for Lyme-like illness is yet to be established will it include a list of the diseases that tick borne pathogens can mimic to prevent misdiagnosis of patients? If not, why?

Answer:

The Australian guideline on the diagnosis of overseas acquired Lyme Disease/Borreliosis <http://www.health.gov.au/lyme-disease#oz-guidelines> provides information on the clinical manifestations of Lyme disease. The guideline includes a diagnostic case definition.