

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000756

OUTCOME: 9 - Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: Lyme Disease

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Madigan, John

Question:

Dr. Lum recently stated that it is “inappropriate for medical practitioners in Australia to make a diagnosis” of Lyme and Lyme-like disease. This is in direct conflict to Professor Baggoley’s comments. Does the National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC) agree with Dr. Lum’s statement? If so, why?

Answer:

Dr Lum’s statement was in the context of a clinical diagnosis and the question about pathognomonic (i.e. characteristic of that particular disease) signs. This question is not relevant to the National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council and laboratory testing.