



Lyme Disease Roundtable Hearing in Sydney

The House of Representatives Health Committee will hold a roundtable hearing in Sydney focusing on Lyme disease, as part of its inquiry into Chronic Disease Prevention and Management in Primary Health Care.

Lyme disease is caused by the *Borrelia* bacterium spread by ticks belonging to the *Ixodes* genus. While there has been no recognised evidence found of Australian *Ixodes* ticks carrying the *Borrelia* bacterium in Australia, many people infected in Australia have reported similar symptoms to those infected overseas.

Typical symptoms of Lyme disease may include fever, headache, fatigue, sore muscles and joints, and a characteristic skin rash. Later symptoms of untreated Lyme disease may include joint pain, chronic fatigue, and short-term memory problems.

Advocacy bodies, selected experts, the Commonwealth Department of Health and people living with Lyme disease will come together to discuss the incidence, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease in Australia.

Chair of the House of Representatives Health Committee, Steve Irons MP said 'Lyme disease can be debilitating, and long lasting, and associated medical therapies are often demanding. This roundtable is an opportunity for community views and experiences to be shared, and for the Committee to gain an understanding of the medical community's response to this disease.'

'Hearing from people living with Lyme disease may also assist in identifying which models of care are being used to treat Lyme disease in primary health care settings.'

Details of the hearing are:

Friday, 18 September – 9.00 am to 12.15 pm
Macquarie Room, Parliament of New South Wales, Macquarie Street, Sydney

A program and further information about the inquiry is available at: www.aph.gov.au/chronicdisease

Audio of the hearing will be broadcast live at: www.aph.gov.au/live

For media comment, please contact Jonathan Martin from the office of Mr Steve Irons MP on 0439 412 855. **Inquiry information:** please contact the committee secretariat on: (02) 6277 4145 or visit the committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/health.