

Name: Jennifer Taylor

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jennifer Taylor and I live in [REDACTED] Victoria. I am [REDACTED] years of age. In February 2015 my husband and I went camping with friends at Cape Conran in Victoria, just south of Orbost. Most of us were bitten by ticks. On our return I sought medical attention for a tick bite. I was treated with Keflex and wound dressings. I went on to manifest a bullseye rash. Three weeks later, I collapsed with chills, fevers and delirium and I was bedridden. I was so ill, my husband even had to help me to the toilet. Fortunately for us, my husband's daughter is a doctor in New South Wales. She found us Dr [REDACTED] in Melbourne, from whom we sought medical attention. My husband and I both had blood sent to America for testing, and it came back positive for *Borrelia burgdorferi* and co-infections. We were treated with antibiotics, we experienced a Herx reaction, which is cell die-off, and after that our health improved.

Unfortunately for us, we can no longer see Dr [REDACTED] due to the restrictions being placed on him by the Australian Medical Board. He is no longer able to treat anyone with antibiotics. We are frustrated, we are scared and we do not understand what is going on. We are told by the medical board that Lyme is not here in Australia. Why have so many people tested positive and experienced all the illnesses? I do not understand. I wish there could be proper testing here in Australia—more thorough testing—and I would be quite able and prepared to talk at any Senate inquiry on the subject.

Since this has happened I have done extensive study into the subject and have read much in the way of medical papers on *Borrelia burgdorferi* and co-infections here in Australia. The doctors here in Australia are either ignorant or naive. Some doctors are prepared to talk about it and are interested but, for fear of sanction by the Australian Medical Board, they have kept quiet. We have now found another doctor to treat us, as long as I do not mention that doctor's name. Everything has to be done on the down low.

There is an old saying: if it smells like it, if it tastes like it, if it looks like it, then it probably is something like it. That is the way I feel about this issue of Lyme in Australia. It might not be exactly that—*Borrelia burgdorferi* but it is something similar.

I have a friend in Queensland who, some decades ago, was confirmed and has documentation to the effect that he has contracted *Borrelia queenslandica*, which is endemic to northern New South Wales and Queensland. He is able to get treatment for this condition. If something is endemic to Queensland, why can't it be elsewhere, with the change in climate, et cetera? We just do not understand it. With people coming in from other countries, birds migrating, et cetera, why can't it be here? Please look into this properly and without prejudice.

I kindly and sincerely submit this paper to you.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Taylor