



Enquiries to: Jenny Thomlinson
NDirector of Nursing
Communicable Diseases Branch
Telephone:
File Ref: C-ECTF-24/20002

Queensland Health

Ms Apolline Kohen
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Kohen

Thank you for your email to Dr Rosengren, Director-General, Queensland Department of Health dated 25 November 2025 regarding the inquiry into access to diagnosis and treatment for people in Australia with tick-borne diseases.

Queensland Health acknowledges the Senate's request for the Community Affairs References Committee to inquire into and report on access to diagnosis and treatment for tick-borne diseases in Australia by 26 March 2025 and appreciates the Committee's invitation to provide a submission on the terms of reference.

Queensland Health supports the inquiry terms of reference as outlined online.

Queensland Health is not aware of any evidence that currently supports the existence of tick-borne borreliosis in Australia, however acknowledges public concern about tick-borne disease and recognises that patients present to the health system in Queensland with overseas acquired Lyme disease and other chronic debilitating symptoms associated with a tick bite, referred to as Debilitating Symptom Complexes Attributed to Ticks (DSCATT).

Queensland Health supports continued access to evidence-based diagnosis and treatment for people in Australia with tick-borne diseases, further research into causation and optimising diagnosis and care, and maintaining the currency of the Australian Government guidelines on clinical pathway management for DISCATT.

Should you require further information, please contact Ms Jenny Thomlinson, Acting Director of Nursing, Communicable Diseases Branch, on _____ or via email to _____

Yours sincerely

Marguerite Taylor
Acting Deputy Director-General
Queensland Public Health and Scientific Services
07 / 01 / 2025