

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000763

**OUTCOME:** 9 - Biosecurity and Emergency Response

**Topic:** Lyme Disease - Treatment

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Madigan, John

**Question:**

Has the Department of Health considered adopting the International Lyme and Associated Disease Society guidelines to assist in the interim treatment of patients while waiting for further research? If not, why?

**Answer:**

The Department of Health is aware of the guidelines produced by the International Lyme and Associated Disease Society as well as those produced by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and other organisations. There is no clear benefit in adopting a specific set of guidelines without clarity on the cause of the probable tick bite associated chronic debilitating symptoms affecting some Australians.