

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000772

OUTCOME: 9 - Biosecurity and Emergency Response

Topic: Lyme Disease

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Madigan, John

Question:

Current funded health policies clearly inhibit and prevent medical practitioners from diagnosing and treating many pathogenically ill patients, often resulting in life long illness and sometimes morbid outcomes. Why are there no effective guidelines or regulations underpinning appropriate medical practitioner training to enable medical practitioners to deal with patients who have presented with recognisable symptoms of pathogenic infections but remain undiagnosed due to limited specific testing?

Answer:

As part of ongoing medical education and registration medical practitioners are required to maintain relevant clinical knowledge. For medical practitioners with patients presenting with medically unexplained symptoms or contentious diagnoses, medical literature, such as, *Australian Family Physician* has recently published articles on these topics.

<http://www.racgp.org.au/afp/2014/april/blame-shame-and-hopelessness/>

<http://www.racgp.org.au/afp/2011/june/explaining-the-unexplainable/>

<http://www.racgp.org.au/afp/2015/september/managing-medically-unexplained-illness-in-general-practice/>

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency undertakes the regulation of Australia's registered medical practitioners.