

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

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

**Ref No:** SQ15-000775

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

**Topic:** Medical Practitioners - Diseases

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

**Senator:** Madigan, John

**Question:**

It seems that misdiagnosis in relation to immune/systemic/pathogenic diseases is commonplace. This suggests that the diagnostic guidelines for all such diseases are in urgent need of review.

- a) When were the last DoH reviews for the guidelines of diseases such as fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis, sarcoidosis and rheumatoid arthritis?
- b) When were the last communications to medical practitioners about these diseases?
- c) If all these diseases are being misdiagnosed, why is there not at least a DoH/CDNA patient count in progress to assist with accurate epidemiological information at some point, especially as many patients fall into the pathogenic category?

**Answer:**

The Department of Health does not maintain treatment guidelines for fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis, sarcoidosis and rheumatoid arthritis.

The Department has not communicated with medical practitioners specifically about fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis or rheumatoid arthritis.

The remit of the Communicable Disease Network Australia is communicable disease and not chronic non-communicable disease. The Department is not aware of any evidence that fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis, sarcoidosis and rheumatoid arthritis are being misdiagnosed.