



For Lyme Disease Awareness & Action

LYME DISEASE
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
ABN 46 417 706 647

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MEDIA RELEASE

Senate inquiry into Lyme-like disease

Lyme Disease Association of Australia (LDAA) welcomes Senator John Madigan's call for a Senate Inquiry into Lyme-like disease in Australia. Senator Madigan has been moved by the testimonials of his constituents who are suffering from the debilitating but unrecognised disease and has taken action to change their dire situation.

Senator Madigan has also listened to treating doctors, government officials, expert pathologists and advocacy groups such as the LDAA in order to try to unravel this travesty and focus government attention on the issues that can and should be addressed.

For too long Lyme sceptics have taken attention off helping sick and dying patients by influencing the standards of evidence required to demonstrate the disease exist and creating barriers to the acceptance of effective and credible sources of evidence and advice.

"Australia is well behind the rest of the world in the testing, diagnosis, treatment and care of Lyme-like patients. Our island home exists in a global world where diseases spread and knowledge is shared, the exception being, Lyme-like disease," said LDAA President Sharon Whiteman.

Australia's official Lyme disease diagnostic pathology tests have been confirmed by the government to be 'discordant', allowing this emerging vector-borne illness to increase unchecked. A Senate Inquiry is an opportunity to mitigate the public health disaster which is unfolding and restore natural dignity to the patients who have been told they should wait, undiagnosed and untreated, for research to progress.

In the situation of an emerging illness, research that takes years to complete should not be the only source of 'proof'. In Australia patients are the evidence of the problem, but their voices are drowned out by those who have taken a public position denying Lyme disease is in Australia and who have the ear of the government.

But the people have spoken with over 31,000 people signing a petition asking the government to take action to help Lyme-like patients. This means 1 out of every 800 Australians want action for Lyme patients. Further, an increasing number of federal and state members of parliament are taking a stand after witnessing the devastation Lyme causes to their constituents.

"I hope and pray our democracy is healthy enough to rise to challenge the neglect and ignorance that has been perpetuated. It's been almost two years since the LDAA submitted a patient focused action plan to the government, but still nothing has been done that actually helps patients. Together we can and will change that." said Ms Whiteman.

INFORMATION | SUPPORT | EDUCATION | AWARENESS

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Additional resources for media are available from the Lyme Disease Association of Australia's [website](http://www.lymedisease.org.au)
www.lymedisease.org.au/media

Research: <http://www.parasitesandvectors.com/content/8/1/345/abstract>