

# Senator John Madigan

Independent Senator for Victoria

## --- Media Release ---

### Senator Madigan welcomes inquiry into incidence of a "Lyme-like" illness in Australia

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Independent Senator for Victoria John Madigan has succeeded in establishing an inquiry into the incidence in Australia of a tick-borne disease that causes similar symptoms to Lyme disease.

Lyme disease is an infectious disease prevalent in many parts of the world and caused by bacteria of the Borrelia type, which can be transmitted to humans by tick bite. While many Australians experience Lyme -like symptoms, the government does not currently recognise Lyme disease as endemic here.

The motion to establish the inquiry was co-sponsored by the entire Senate cross-bench as well as National Party Senator Bridgette McKenzie.

The establishment of the inquiry represents the culmination of months of work by Senator Madigan who took an interest in the plight of those suffering Lyme -like symptoms after receiving letters from a number of constituents.

Senator Madigan said: "The past few months have been a steep learning curve for me when it comes to Lyme disease. What has become clear over that time is there are thousands of Australians suffering debilitating symptoms who need answers. Hopefully this inquiry will put the issue on the radar nationally and bring us a step closer to providing those answers."

"I thank my cross bench colleagues, Senator McKenzie, the government and the opposition for their support in getting this inquiry up. I think the overwhelming support I ultimately received for establishing the inquiry, despite this being an issue of significant controversy, speaks volumes. It recognises that those Australians suffering this terrible set of symptoms are genuine and that their concerns must be urgently addressed."

Senator Madigan said he looks forward to taking part in the inquiry as a participating member.

**Media contact: Nick Moss - ph: 0417 602 378**