

Historic action for Australian Lyme patients!



LYME DISEASE
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
For Lyme Disease Awareness & Action



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Dear Lymelighter,



[Round Table Update](#)

On the 18th of September, LDAA President Sharon Whiteman was a witness at the Federal Round Table Hearing on Lyme Disease (as a part of the inquiry into Chronic Disease prevention). She was joined by researchers, members of the medical community, treating doctors, patients, representatives from the federal Department of

Health and the Country Women's Association. The Round Table focused on the incidence, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease, and heard from seven patients about their experiences of fighting Lyme disease and co-infections whilst navigating a discriminatory medical system.

The Federal Members of Parliament were visibly moved by the stories told by patients struggling with Lyme disease in Australia, and asked hard-hitting questions especially of the Federal Department of Health, the Royal College of Pathologists and the Australasian Society of Infectious Diseases. Parliamentary Committee members Ken Wyatt and Stephen Jones particularly grilled the department of health on what they are doing for Lyme disease patients in Australia, comparing the department of Health's inaction to that of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the long-time denial of the *Helicobacter Pylori* research into stomach ulcers, with Ken Wyatt stating that he found it "negligent that we are having a debate around this issue" whilst patients are suffering, to the clapping and cheers of the Lyme patients present in the public gallery.

There was some excellent press coverage: [Huffington Post](#), [ABC](#)

Listen to the full audio of the proceedings [here](#). Written Hansard version [here](#).

[ILADS Treatment Guidelines Published](#)

"ILADS adds another milestone to a long list of accomplishments in the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme and its co-infections. By the 1980's, doctors were increasingly concerned with the growing numbers of Lyme disease patients with chronic manifestations. A number of these doctors formed the International Lyme and Associated Disease Society (ILADS) a nonprofit, international, multidisciplinary medical society dedicated to advance for the standard of care for these conditions.

ILADS has twice published evidence-based guidelines in 2004 and 2014 to elucidate the foundations of the chronic disease paradigm. Both guidelines have been listed in the National Guideline Clearinghouse to allow physicians to understand the chronic disease paradigm."

~ Dr Daniel Cameron, International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS) President

You can read the treatment guidelines [here](#)



Ask the Doctor Part 7 | Breathing

Dr Christabelle Yeoh, LDAA newsflash regular brings us Part 7 in our 'Ask the Doctor' series: *Lifestyle Recommendations to Look After Your Nervous System*.

'You may recall, in previous articles in this series, the internal landscape of the cells (also known as the terrain), is key to how biochemical reactions and mechanisms can take place. So far, I have mainly discussed the effect of food on the metabolism and the effect of immune inflammation on mitochondrial function. Now it's important to consider that just as great efforts are needed to eat well and detox the terrain from environmental and microbial toxins, equal efforts needs to be made to breathe well.'

[Read Pt. 7 here.](#)



Volunteer with Us!

Join our wonderful volunteer team! LDAA works in a virtual online environment. You must have access to a computer, a stable wifi connection, and have a passion to enact change in your community! LDAA's roles are expanding, often volunteers take on ad-hoc jobs, beyond their initial involvement.

Our current job positions are:

1. **Newsflash Editor** | Want to contribute or give back? Like to keep connected with Lyme news in the community already? Have a keen eye for editing and grammar? This is easily a 2 hour per week job - let us know!
2. **Marketing/Fundraising** | Need a passionate individual to help Lyme patients, bright/innovative ideas a bonus! Must be able to implement and manage fundraising projects as part of a team. Twitter expertise a bonus!
3. **IT Web Support** | More details [here](#).
4. **Events Coordinator** | National coordinator of LDAA events, including supervising support groups, policies, maintaining and liaising with event holders, and team work with our fulfilment officer.

Introduce yourself by sending info@lymedisease.org.au an email with the subject

header: Volunteer Application! We look forward to speaking with you!



Lyme in the Media

John Caudwell, Phones4U Billionaire Fights for Lyme Awareness

UK Billionaire, John Caudwell has recently discovered his son's mental illness is Lyme disease. Subsequently his whole family tested positive. He has committed to spearheading change for Lyme patients in the UK. Connect with him on [Facebook](#). In a very short time he has an amazing grasp of the situation for Lyme patients - watch his interview [here](#) (worth the 9 min of your time).

9th Sept | 4BC Afternoon Radio Segment

Community warrior and long-time Lyme sufferer, Karen New's story is shared by friend Elise Searson with Clare Blake for 4BC Afternoon radio segment. 'Karen has suffered from chronic Lyme disease for thirty years, ever since she was bitten by a tick whilst working in an abattoir.' Photographer and friend, Elise Searson has launched [The Lyme Project](#) to document Karen's journey. You can listen to the full radio segment [here](#).

Sharon Whiteman on ABC Statewide Drive (NSW)

During this interview, radio host, Fiona Wyllie (Statewide Drive), indicated she'd been talking about Lyme in the media for 20 years. It's time to recognise Lyme. Listen [here](#)

There have been some less than positive articles in medical publications in the past couple of days. It brings to mind Mahatma Gandhi's quote "*First they ignore you, then they ridicule you, then they fight you, and then you win.*" We're in the fight stage... one more to go.



Events Calendar

- **September & October ANPA Webinars | John Coleman, ND:** Lyme

Disease: Recognising, diagnosing and treating Borreliosis and co-infections. Webinar 1 takes place Tues 29th Sept, Webinar 2 takes place on Tues 6th October. Read more about these webinars [here](#). Register [here](#). (Apologies, due to volunteer resignation, there's been a sending delay)

● [Ticked Off & Travelling](#): The Pooley family are travelling around Australia, to raise awareness and education for Lyme disease, an illness that plagues their entire family. If you want to support their journey/travels, you can connect with the Pooley family via their facebook group [here](#). Or, contact the family [here](#).

If you'd like your event listed here in the Events, please email info@lymedisease.org.au



[From the Committee](#)

I say the same things every newsletter! WOW, what a busy time :-). The roundtable in Sydney was a momentous occasion, the greatest progress to date and we have 'real' support from 'real' politicians. The next step is to transform that support into timely and 'real' change for Lyme patients in Australia. From a government perspective, the next step is a written report and analysis from the roundtable. Our politicians championing action for Lyme patients have indicated that initial thoughts are that enough has been exposed in this first roundtable for further, more detailed inquiry to progress.

Immediately following the roundtable action on Lyme disease, the Federal Nationals Party have raised a motion on Lyme recognition at their annual conference. It's been reported to us that the "resolution passed very convincingly, to recognise Lyme disease and support initiatives to assist sufferers". The party agreed to support initiatives in the areas of recognition, doctor training and support, affordable testing, treatment and access to full chronic disease benefits for patients. I know change can't happen soon enough, we deeply appreciate these early, supportive initiatives. The next step is passing the bill, if you have a Nationals MP, reach out and let them know your story and tell them you want action for Lyme patients.

LDAA Chronic Disease Submission - As requested by the Minister for Health, The Hon Sussan Ley MP, the Standing Committee on Health will inquire into and report on Chronic Disease Prevention and Management in Primary Health Care. Submissions were opened to the Australian community - our Submission is number 85 on this

[page](#).

We have an incredible team working for all Lyme patients and we will continue to work with these engaged and concerned MP's in advocating for these critical areas: a) effective testing b) research c) affordable treatment d) doctor training e) prevention / public health. Australia is now decades behind in addressing this epidemic and it is prudent to progress all of these areas simultaneously.

We can't do this work without your help. If you can help in any of the urgent areas above, please let us know.

Yours in Green,



Sharon Whiteman
President



Join our volunteer team!

Enquire or Apply

Have an LDAA event, or want to include something in our next newsletter? *Let us know at info@lymedisease.org.au*

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