

A jam-packed June for Lyme disease awareness & advocacy!



LYME DISEASE
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
For Lyme Disease Awareness & Action

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Dear Dan,



[Partnering with The Color Run Newcastle](#)



We're very pleased to announce that we are the local charity partner for [The Color Run](#) event in Newcastle in 2015. The details of the event are as follows:

When: Sunday 28th June 2015

Where: [Newcastle Jockey Club, Darling Street, Broadmeadow NSW.](#)

Time: Start line opens at 9am with waves going every few minutes until 9:30am. The Village opens at 7am for all our pre-run entertainment.

The LDAA will have a team of volunteers helping out on the day, so why not [sign up and purchase your tickets to participate now?](#)



[May Lyme Project](#)

Wow! May was an absolute whirlwind and the Lyme awareness force was strong! We're so proud of everyone who participated in events. Our fundraising mantra is 'Lyme disease saves lives' and from the LDAA to you, we'd like to thank you for contribution in spreading Lyme awareness, education and information.

The LDAA team is comprised of volunteers who are either sick with Lyme themselves, or Lyme carers – so we understand that hosting a Lyme awareness event can often be difficult, or near impossible. For those of you who organised an event, we recognise this as a feat of courage, and we appreciate how many spoons it must have used from the energy drawer. So, thank you to our supporters and fundraisers! You did an awesome job!

If you raised funds for the LDAA, remember to complete your *Fundraising Event Report* & upload it using form #4 [here](#), or alternatively (scan or take a clear photo) of your form and send to: treasurer@lymedisease.org.au



[Postcard Campaign Update](#)

It's June! That signals an end, only for the posting of the postcards. **Please stop sending your Postcards this week (12/06/2015).** We know some people had a few

left over that they're passionate to see sent!

Thank you for the immense response, the campaign is still making waves in awareness, and we hope it will continue to weave necessary and important tick-borne disease education and awareness for our community and beyond. We continue the fight, and with your help, this campaign has been immeasurable and invaluable!

Remember to shoot us a quick email to:
(events@lymedisease.org.au)

- Confirm sending of your cards
- Include name of your MP
- Include/attach any MP response letters

If you have an excess left over, please return them to:

Lyme Disease Association of Australia, PO Box 1082, Moama NSW 2731

► **Petition | Dear Hon. Sussan Ley MP**

'A disease does not have to be officially recognised to be present. The suggestion that patients and their carers should wait years for research projects, that are not even currently funded much less close to conclusion, is beyond reasonable. Australian Lyme & Lyme-like patients are not getting a fair go.'

We are supporting this petition, as a way for people who missed out on our postcards in May to digitally sign & show their support. Off the back of the postcard campaign, Adam Curtis has brought us a change.org petition asking our Minister for Health, Sussan Ley and the department to take action on Lyme-like disease in Australia. Adam is a carer of a Lyme disease sufferer, and is passionate about raising awareness and asking our decision makers to respond, initiate action and further progression in awareness, funding & research. [Leave your signature & show of support here...](#)

► **MP Supports Lyme Disease**

'The most frustrating thing about the disease is that it is preventable if it is caught early before it turns into a chronic disease, because Lyme disease, being a chronic disease, has enormous impact on people's lives.'

In a very positive move, the postcard campaign has inspired Federal Member for Shortland (NSW) & member of the Australian Labor Party, Jill Hall to pitch the issue of Lyme Disease to the House. Jill Hall's electorate received 70+ postcards. [Read more...](#)



Government Briefings

We would like to thank all the politicians who've agreed to briefings on behalf of Lyme patients. We'd also like to thank everyone from the community who took time to write and meet with their local government representatives. To date we've had the opportunity to brief over 11 MPs with the majority being receptive. The work to build awareness with the government will continue.



Events Calendar

- [25th June | 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](#).
- [26th July | Run Melbourne](#): Jane is running for her best friend and nephew, Andrew who suffers from Lyme disease. Run Melbourne is on Sunday 26th of July. Jane is raising money and awareness for the LDAA, so supporting Jane in her run is supporting Andrew, and our community. Donate [here](#).
- [28th June | Newcastle Color Run](#): Newcastle Color Run has made LDAA their [official local charity partner](#). When you sign up, you can choose 'Lyme Disease Association Australia' as your charity to run & fundraise for. If you or a family member/friend are unable to run, you can volunteer (your volunteering will earn LDAA \$30). [More information here](#).



From the Committee

We are privileged to partner with the Lyme patient community for Lyme awareness and action in Australia. We love that during the month of May there was so much SUPPORT.

- The [NSW branch of Country Women's Association \(CWA\)](#) has been vocal in their [Lyme disease support](#) & awareness.
- [Newcastle Color Run](#) has the LDAA officially listed as a local charity partner for the 28th July fun-run.
- The Australian Defence Force (ADF) will [investigate Lyme disease and its effect amongst military personnel](#). The LDAA had planned to submit a response, unfortunately we're unable to progress this.

While the May Lyme Project (MLP) is complete, and we hope all our event partners are taking a well-earned rest, we are not done! We have several priority projects happening on your behalf:

- **Our post-MLP media release** has been distributed, our team will be following this up. If you've been liaising with media, [let us know](#).
- **Collaborating with Lyme patients** to connect with their politicians, presenting our case and lobbying for action.
- **Patients have received correspondence from their local MPs**, who have referenced the post CACLD priority action points. From a chronically ill Lyme patient perspective, these points are more of a 'to-do' list. The CMO has made progress, but there has been a disconnect, his advice is not reaching doctors, pathologists, researchers, and patients are still suffering.
- **The Department of Health (DoH)** released a [statement](#) on the 29th May. We are working on formulating a response.

Lyme disease got some air time on ABC Radio (612 ABC Brisbane):

Kelly Higgins-Devine talks to Dr Ann Mitrovic (Tick-Borne Disease Unit, University of Sydney) and LDAA President. At 6 minutes there's a report on MTHFR genes & the migraine and stroke link. The Lyme segment starts at around 27 minutes.

[Listen here!](#)

On behalf of the community, the LDAA sends well-wishes to [Dr Peter Mayne](#). Dr Mayne is a pioneering force in our community, a source of knowledge and dedication

in the field of research, a understanding and caring physician, and the origin of hope for many patients seeking treatment. LDAA thanks Dr Mayne and his staff for years of dedicated caring for those in our community.

If you would like to [volunteer with us](#), check out the positions available below. Our volunteers are virtual, work from home with flexible hours. We provide plenty of support and a positive team environment. Volunteering helps connect people, even a small contribution can help in multiple ways. Consider joining us, we'd love to have you!

Yours in Green,

Sharon Whiteman | President

Amber Beilharz | Newsletter Editor



Join our volunteer team!

[Enquire or Apply](#)

IT & Web Support | View responsibilities & application criteria [here](#).

Merchandise Fulfilment | Organisation & analysis skills are a must. Able to work independently.

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