

Historic action for Australian Lyme patients!



LYME DISEASE
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
For Lyme Disease Awareness & Action

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Dear Lymelighter,



[History in the making: Senate enquiry announced](#)

On 12 November 2015 history was made with the tendering and passing of a motion by [Senator John Madigan](#) to establish a senate enquiry into Lyme-like illness in Australia! The Lyme Disease Association of Australia has been working tirelessly to secure the enquiry and we thank Senator Madigan and the other co-sponsoring senators for making the enquiry a reality. Now the hard-work really begins!

The LDAA will be making a submission and we encourage other advocacy associations and Lyme and Lyme-like patients to do the same. To assist patients the LDAA will be preparing a Lyme guide on how to prepare your submission. We will also be offering further individualised support to those simply too ill to write, or those who just need a little bit of help! Further information will be hitting your inbox shortly.

In the interim, you might like to watch the passing of the motion below, read the [LDAA](#) or [Senator Madigan's](#) press releases. Alternatively you can read the Australian Parliament's guide to [making a submission](#).

PS: The senate enquiry announcement reached 81,000 individuals on our Facebook page. It broke all of our previous post records!



[Petition Power](#)

Did you see the amazing Lyme petition this week? WOW and thank you! It went crazy. It started at just over 6,000 last Friday and exploded to over 30,000 in approximately 5 days.

The LDAA would like to thank Adam Curtis and his partner Michelle for initiating the petition alongside the May Lyme Project this year. It started out with a dream to highlight the plight of Adam's wife Michelle's Lyme story to the Health Minister and completed by inspiring a community to get on board and participate wildly.

The petition was delivered to Minister Ley at just over 32,000 signatures this week, but it remains open please support and share. Click [here](#).



Got Mould?

[Dr Ritchie Shoemaker, MD](#) visited our shores earlier this year. During his visit he emphasised, as have other physicians like Dr Horowitz and Dr Burrascano, the importance of checking Lyme and Lyme-like disease patients for Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (CIRS).

This is where an individual's immune system has an inability to respond to certain toxins (e.g. biotoxins like mould). To that end, a reasonably new Facebook support group known as Toxic Mould Support Australia is in operation, as is a supporting website which provides all the necessary details on the condition known as CIRS for the Australian community.

You can [join the support group](#) or [visit the website here](#).



Lyme in the Media

Lyme has again been raised in the media over the last few weeks! From providing an insight into living with [Lyme and Lyme-like disease in Perth](#), to a generous stranger offering a [Lyme disease sufferer in Queensland an unimaginable gift](#); media has been varied.

Equally, the topic of [research into the illness](#) and [confirmation that treating physicians are not actively censured \(behind subscriber-wall\)](#); "certainly not coming from the medical board" according to the Chief Medical Officer also made headlines.

A [Brisbane resident also detailed her experience with deer in Brisbane spreading Lyme disease](#); "we couldn't find anything except for a big red raised lump that was really itchy. Then on the third day, it was just driving me crazy so I gave it a big squeeze and out it came - the head, and the two front feelers were still moving. The whole thing had buried into my skin."



Events Calendar

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](#).

LDAA Lyme Support Groups: Are you a patient with Lyme-like disease? Do you need support? Would you like to meet other carers and sufferers? The LDAA in conjunction with our amazing volunteers are supporting face-to-face support groups around the country. Connect with our new support group Facebook page [here](#).

24 Hours of LeMons (Tequila not included): Here is a different take on how Lemons can help those with Lyme disease. Introducing the '24 hours of LeMons' an endurance race with a difference. Vehicles must be acquired and prepared for a maximum of \$1000. [Check out the Lyme awareness car - a winner 'fur' sure!](#) Thanks to Con and the team for their amazing efforts in raising awareness for Lyme disease in Australia!

If you'd like your event listed here in the Events, please complete an event registration form [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 internet 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 volunteer positions are:

1. **Secretary** | The executive position of Secretary is currently vacant. This position would require a person with high attention to detail, organisational abilities and approximately 5-10 hours per week (timing flexible). Fun,

passionate and professional team environment.

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 us a message via our [contact us form](#)! We look forward to speaking with you!



From the Committee

Well, you guessed it, yes, we're still madly busy! But in a good way. There are great things happening at the LDAA and we continue to be very determined to continue to get action on behalf of patients and doctors. It would be accurate to say 'we just can't rest' until we get what patients need and deserve.

We're very heartened by the significant efforts of all the politicians who have been working on behalf of Lyme patients, most recently Senator for Victoria, John Madigan. His rapid, heartfelt and tireless efforts on behalf of sick Australians are so greatly appreciated!

The real credit goes to each and everyone one of you... as a community, we're inspiring the nation to take action. The Senate Inquiry unfortunately isn't a silver bullet, but it's such an incredible opportunity to expose what's 'broken' in Australia in regards to providing what Lyme patients both need and deserve. I know I've said that 'twice'... but it's true.

The LDAA says thank you - to our dedicated and tireless (not really) volunteers, like Yvonne, Adam, Gabrielle and others who have brought ideas and then committed to their implementation; to all of you who reached out to government, media, politicians and doctors; and to those of you too sick to help physically, we thank you for your prayers.

Yours in Green,



Sharon Whiteman
President

P.S. Remember to connect with us on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#), it's working!



**Join our volunteer
team!**

Enquire or Apply

**Have an LDAA event, or want to
include something in our next
newsletter? Let us know [about events
here](#) or [other happenings here!](#)**

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