

UPDATE FROM COMMONWEALTH CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER – CHRIS BAGGOLEY

The Australian Government Chief Medical Officer's Clinical Advisory Committee on Lyme disease will continue to meet into 2014 to progress its terms of reference.

The Committee membership is comprised of representatives drawn from a range of professional organisations and advocacy groups.

The Committee has heard from Associate Professor Peter Irwin of Murdoch University about his promising tick research which involves dogs as sentinels and is also looking at human specimens.

The federal Department of Health has contracted an eminent microbiologist to develop a scoping study on the types of research necessary to provide sufficient evidence for the existence of an indigenous causative microorganism and a competent vector. This study is available at <http://www.health.gov.au/lyme-disease>

A working group of the committee is also working on a diagnostic pathway that will be suitable for Australia.

The committee has also been developing a strong connection with Australians in the community who are concerned their illness could be Lyme disease or an Australian variant. In addition, the CMO has written to Australian clinicians advising them about the work of the committee and the concerns many Australians have about Lyme disease.

*December 2013*