

Question on Notice

No. 1209

Asked on 18 September 2018

DR M ROBINSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise (a) the number of patients presenting to Queensland Health facilities with tick-bite symptoms over the last 10 years (reported separately by year) and (b) what progress has been made with regard to research and treatment of Lyme-like illnesses throughout the state?

ANSWER

I am advised that the number of distinct patients, episodes of admitted patient care for 'contact with venomous tick', in public acute hospitals in Queensland, 2008-09 to 2017-18 is as follows:

Year	Patients
2008-09	59
2009-10	58
2010-11	104
2011-12	137
2012-13	129
2013-14	137
2014-15	105
2015-16	123
2016-17	120
2017-18	129

The Australian Government are leading the response to research and treatment of Lyme-like illnesses and I am advised that following an Inquiry by the Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee to review evidence of tick-borne diseases that cause Lyme-like diseases, \$3 million was provided to the National Health and Medical Research Committee (NHMRC) to undertake an Australia wide targeted call for research into 'debilitating symptom complexes attributed to ticks'.

While Queensland will continue to provide a high level of clinical care to those patients presenting with Lyme-like symptoms, Queensland, along with other jurisdictions, will be guided by the outcomes of the research the NHMRC is conducting.