



**The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the
Public Service and Cabinet**

Ref No: MC20-001062

Ms Sharon Whiteman
Chief Executive Officer
Lyme Disease Association of Australia (LDAA)
info@lymedisease.org.au

08 APR 2020

Ms Elaine Kelly
Secretary
Sarcoidosis Lyme Australia (SLA)
evtkelly@hotmail.com

Ms Kate Daniels
President
Multiple Systemic Infectious Disease Syndrome (MSIDS Inc)
info@msids.org.au

Sharon, Elaine, Kate
Dear Ms Whiteman, Ms Kelly and Ms Daniels

I refer to your letter of 23 January 2020 concerning the development of an evidence-based clinical pathway and multidisciplinary care model for patients suffering from Debilitating Symptom Complexes Attributed to Ticks (DSCATT) and the development of tick-related education materials. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I note the concerns you have raised about the management of the projects and your request for a moratorium on this important work. I further note correspondence you have sent to my Department about these projects, and their responses to you. I have reviewed your concerns, and note that the consultation period has already been extended on several occasions. Given the number of extensions granted to date, I am not able to grant a further extension, nor approve a moratorium in relation to these projects.

These projects are intended to benefit multiple stakeholders and will provide much needed guidance for health professionals and the public. Overall feedback on these projects has been largely positive, particularly among health professional groups. The Australian Government will continue to work closely with the project consultants to ensure that the final clinical pathway and education materials are evidence-based and reflect best practice.

As you are aware, consultation on the draft clinical pathway and the first of a series of tick-related factsheets, closed on 24 January 2020. Feedback provided by your organisations within this timeframe will be taken into consideration when finalising the clinical pathway and tick factsheet. Additional factsheets relating to tick-borne illnesses acquired in Australia and overseas are being developed and will be distributed to key stakeholders, including your organisations, for comment prior to finalisation.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Greg Hunt