

# Post polio syndrome appeal to GPs

4 April, 2012 [Gemma Collins](#)



**GPs have not received enough training to diagnose and manage Australians experiencing the late effects of polio which is leading to patients being stuck on a “diagnosis roundabout for years”, Parliament has heard.**

Polio survivors told a roundtable meeting by the Committee on Health and Ageing that patients with the late effects of polio and post-polio syndrome were having to wait more than six years to be diagnosed because of a lack of awareness of the condition.

Coordinator at Polio Services Victoria, Blaise Doran told the committee he had heard complaints from patients that their GP didn't believe them when they told them about their condition and that “GPs didn't believe in post-polio syndrome”.

He said it was understandable that doctors could not be taught everything and therefore they have to find the information themselves and in a six minute consultation they perhaps go “for the best fit”.

Mr Doran said post-polio health problems were occurring in patients who had been infected with polio in the 1950s and also among migrants from countries such as Pakistan where polio is still present.

The hearing heard suggestions that training modules be created about the condition as well as an early diagnostic tool.

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_Committees?url=haa/leop\\_pps/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=haa/leop_pps/index.htm)

<http://www.6minutes.com.au/news/latest-news/post-polio-syndrome-appeal-to-gps>