Special report on psittacosis in Tasmania

David Coleman, Scientific Officer, Communicable Diseases Surveillance, Public and Environmental Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania

All six cases of psittacosis from northern Tasmania either owned or had recent contact with cockatiels but there was no common source for all cases. Some had recently purchased these birds. The sellers of the birds were checked but no sick birds were identified. However, as there may have been asymptomatic shedding of bacteria, these birds were treated with antibiotics.