

Senate Inquiry into Thalidomide :

To whom it may concern,

As a Thalidomide survivor I wish to submit my personal experiences in having this condition to this Senate Inquiry, in the hope of equalizing a more fairer outcome for survivors compared with what other outcomes have been for other people who have received compensation for far less serious matters than Thalidomide. Also I hope that common sense will prevail in the Inquiry and recognize the above is just so.

BRIEF HISTORY:

Growing up in my childhood was very happy. I always had plenty of friends and there seemed to be no problems with my disability and no problems with my condition with any of my friends. This lasted until about the age of 18.

BRIEF SUMMARY GROWING INTO ADULTHOOD :

However, from the age of 18, I noticed my friends were beginning to dwindle off along with very few invitations to go out anywhere. The psychological impact of this occurring was nothing short of hopelessness and complete devastation.

I realized that it was the effects caused through Thalidomide was the greatest underlying reason why my life had taken a turn for the worst, as there could be no other logical reason for this terrible turn of events.

My physical condition is the most severe, as I was born with no legs or arms, and at around 18 years of age unfortunately must have been a bit of an embarrassment to a lot of people or former

friends of a similar age. Doing normal things at this age like driving a nice car and picking up girls for example, wasn't going to be for me. I 100% blame Thalidomide for stealing my dignity, my self-worth, and the unimaginable impact it would have caused my Parents when I was born.

I think that fair is fair and it's about time we receive compensation which is fitting and realistic according the severity of both physical and psychological damages caused and ask yourselves how long could you live under these conditions which us survives have had to endure for approximately 40 years, and have not received adequate compensation yet by far?

Lastly, I was going to go into detail about how other people who have received far greater amounts of money in other compensation matters where there has hardly been any damages or no damages at all. We've all heard of them (Mr. Blogs receives \$1.5 Million Dollars after biting into a hot apple pie from a McDonalds Store).

(Miss. Blogs awarded \$5 Million dollars for tripping in a crack on a public footpath.) Again, we've all heard of these sort of compensation cases taking place so I won't go into detail as I said I would. However these two hypothetical examples should underscore what I meant by saying that fair is fair in that we the Thalidomide Survivor's should not be ignored any longer and compensated for our damages which are far more extensive than somebody biting into food which is hot.

Thank you

Thalidomide Survivor