

Senate Community Affairs References Committee

Public hearing, 2 November 2018
Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens, Melbourne
Thalidomide Group Australia

CLARIFICATION NOTICE

To: Senate Committee

Thalidomide Group Australia wishes to clarify a point that was discussed during interactions between representatives from The Department of Health (Ms Flynn and Ms Studdert), and the panel of senators at our Inquiry dated November 2nd, 2018.

Discussions between Senator Watt and Ms Flynn were at one stage focusing on the Proposal presented by Thalidomide Group Australia to the Australian Government for ongoing support. Throughout their discussion, it was evident that there was an understanding between them, that a one-off payment of \$500,000 was being asked for each survivor.

I would like to clarify that this is a misunderstanding.

What has been asked for is a **one-time upfront payment** of up to \$500,000.00 (scaled) to each Thalidomide survivor. During our assessment process through Diageo, each survivor was given a graded number, that corresponded to the level of disability sustained via Thalidomide. The categories ranged between 1 – 5 (with 5 being the most affected and 1 being the least). With these assessments already completed, it made sense to use these as a guideline for the one-off payment we are requesting. For example: Level 1 at \$100,000, Level 2 at \$200,000, Level 3 at \$300,000, Level 4 at \$400,00, and Level 5 at \$500,000. So, this payment would be matched accordingly to our Diageo assessments

Survivors are in agreeance that this payment needs to be scaled, as some have been affected at a much higher degree than others.

Survivors are also in agreeance that this is an extremely unpretentious payment for over 55 years of pain and suffering.

The confusion regarding this matter may have stemmed from our initial proposal to Minister Ley in 2016, which neglected to state this payment was to be scaled, but it has been noted on all recent documentations regarding our proposal.

Kind Regards,

Lisa McManus

Thalidomide Group Australia