

Submission to Senate Community Affairs References Committee

I am writing this submission as a result of my personal experience of the effects of transvaginal mesh implants.



Name and contact details

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Date of Birth 5 - 2 - 1948

Contact number [REDACTED]

Email address

State [REDACTED]

Postcode [REDACTED]

Terms of Reference 1: The number of women in Australia who have been impacted

1. Have you or a family member had a transvaginal mesh implant? Yes No

If Yes, please share your experience:

MY FIRST SURGERY IN 2010. [REDACTED] MESH WAS USED WITH [REDACTED] MESH. 2012. [REDACTED]
MY SECOND SURGERY MESH EROSION EXCISED RE-DO. [REDACTED]
NOT BY CHOICE TO HAVE THE SECOND SURGERY. BUT THE MESH IMPLANT HAD TO BE EXCISED.

2. Have you or your family member experienced adverse side effects as a result of the transvaginal mesh implant? (full details are provided at Terms of Reference 5, below) Yes No

If Yes, please share your experience:

MESH EROSION. THE SIZE OF THE EROSION $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$ CM. AT THE LEVEL OF THE BLADDER NECK. REASON FOR MY SECOND SURGERY

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3. Have you or your family member had the mesh removed or made attempts to have the mesh removed in Australia or elsewhere? (full details are provided at Terms of Reference 7, below)

Yes

No

If Yes, please share your experience:

4. Do you have any suggestions or recommendations about changes to laws, policy and practices in relation to transvaginal mesh implants or similar products?

BAN THEM
FROM MY EXPERIENCE. THE TRANSVAGINAL MESH IMPLANTS ARE UNIFORMLY DEFECTIVE. AFTER HAVING TWO TRANSVAGINAL MESH IMPLANTS AND ADVERSE SIDE EFFECTS. FROM THEM

Terms of Reference 2: Information provided to women prior to surgery about possible complications and side effects

1. What information was given to you or your family member prior to surgery to implant the transvaginal mesh?

THE USUAL COMPLICATIONS, PRIOR TO SURGERY
BUT THE [REDACTED] MESH IMPLANT SYSTEM
WAS MY BEST OPTION, FOR MY MEDICAL CONDITION,
AND SURGERY ADVISED FOR MY STRESS
INCONTINENCE.

2. How was this information provided to you? (eg. brochures, verbally, websites)

VERBALLY,

3. Do you have any suggestions or recommendations as to what information you think women should receive before they receive a transvaginal mesh implant?

TO HAVE THE TRANSVAGINAL MESH IMPLANTS,
REMOVED IS NOT EASY OR IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE
AND THE RISK OF COMPLICATIONS IS VERY HIGH.
ADVERSE SIDE EFFECTS; CAN BE LONG LASTING,
AND PAINFUL TO LIVE WITH.

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Terms of Reference 3: Information provided to doctors regarding transvaginal mesh implants and possible complications and side effects

1. What is your experience of doctors' knowledge of transvaginal mesh implants, complications and side effects?

MY MESH EROSION WAS NOT RECOGNISED WITH MY VISIT TO THE DR. ROOMS. BY HIM. AT FIRST. UNTIL A SIM SPECULUM EXAMINATION IN THE LITHOTOMY POSITION. WHICH SHOWED MESH EROSION AT THE LEVEL OF THE BLADDER NECK WAS DIAGNOSED

2. Have you found information about transvaginal mesh including complications and side effects that your doctor (GP or specialists) was not aware of?

No

3. Do you have any suggestions or recommendations about what information you think doctors should be provided with in relation to transvaginal mesh?

4. How could women adversely affected by transvaginal mesh implants tell their stories to doctors?

Terms of Reference 4: Any financial or other incentives provided to medical practitioners to use or promote transvaginal mesh implants

1. Do you know of or do you have evidence of incentives being provided to medical practitioners to use or promote transvaginal mesh implants?

NOT AWARE OF ANY INCENTIVES,
BUT THEY PROMOTE THEM FOR USE.

2. Do you have any suggestions or recommendations about the provision of incentives to medical practitioners for using or promoting transvaginal mesh implants?

Terms of Reference 5: The types and incidence of health problems experienced by women with transvaginal mesh implants and the impact these health problems have had on their lives

1. This is the opportunity to tell your and/or your family member's story about how transvaginal mesh implants have affected you and your family. These impacts do not have to be limited to health issues but may also extend to issues around relationships, finances, employment or any other part of life that has been affected.

MY VAGINAL WALL PROLAPSE, REPAIR POSTERIOR
AND MESH ^{EROSION} EXCISED RE-DO WITH [REDACTED] MESH
SURGERY.

WAS COMPLICATED BY A SEVERE VULVAL
DERMATITIS THAT LEFT ME WITH BLISTERING
AND SEVERE VULVODYNIA AND LICHEN
SCLEROSIS. TO THIS DATE HAS PROVED
RESISTANT TO CURE, AND REQUIRES STEROID
TOPICAL TREATMENT. 5 YEARS AFTER SURGERY,
I STILL SEE A DERMATOLOGIST AND GYNAECOLOGIST

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AN EXPENSE. ON A FIXED INCOME
TO THIS DATE. I STILL HAVE PERSISTENT PROLAPSE
AND PAIN.
AND FACE AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE MEDICALLY
AND FEEL DISHEARTENED; AFTER TWO
OPERATIONS AND MESH EROSION. TO BE
WORSE THAN BEFORE SURGERY.

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Terms of Reference 6: The Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) role in a) investigating the suitability of the implants for use in Australia; b) ongoing monitoring of the suitability of the implants; and c) knowledge of women suffering with health problems after having transvaginal mesh implants

1. What experience have you had with the TGA?

NONE

2. What do you think of the current work the TGA is undertaking in this area?

GIVEN THE ADVERSE SIDE EFFECTS, FROM WOMEN OVERSEAS, FROM TRANSVAGINAL MESH IMPLANTS, WAS ENOUGH MONITORING DONE BEFORE USE HERE IN AUSTRALIA.

3. What is needed to improve the work of the TGA in this area?

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4. Are there other government agencies (apart from the TGA) who could or should have a role in this?

5. In your opinion, is there anywhere (in Australia or internationally) that does a good job in these areas?

6. Do you have any recommendations about changes that might be needed to laws, policy and practices in relation to regulation of medical devices in Australia?

Terms of Reference 7: Options available to women to have transvaginal mesh removed

1. What is your experience of trying to have transvaginal mesh removed?

2. Do you know of anywhere (in Australia or internationally) where it is easier for women to have mesh removed?

No

3. Do you have any recommendations or suggestions about what would make it easier for women seeking to have mesh removed in Australia?

*WOMEN NEED THE HELP OF THE GOVERNMENT PRACTITIONERS
IN CONJUNCTION, WITH THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS
TO RECTIFY. AND FIND A SOLUTION. TO THIS
PROBLEM.*

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Are there any final comments you would like to make?

Horizontal lines for writing comments.

Submissions can be made to the Committee in writing by 31 May 2017 and should be sent to the
Committee Secretariat contact:

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

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If you would like more time to finalise your submission, an extension can be requested by emailing the
secretariat at community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au or telephone on 02 62773515.