

To whom it may concern:

I had my PIP implanted in 2007 by doctor Daniel Flemming. I remember asking a lot of questions especially in regards to the possibility of rupture and was assured if it ruptured it wouldn't leak through my body and the silicon was safe with no health concerns if it did rupture. I accept Dr Flemming had no idea in relation to the PIP implants he was recommending had anything in them that wasn't medical grade silicon.

In the last 18 months I have started to get sharp pains in my breasts as well as swelling. They initially use to be cold all the time and now are constantly hot. I am not the type of person to dwell on ill health and tried to ignore the systems and was too scared to admit there could be a problem.

I was disappointed to have to hear about the PIP implants issue through the media and not to be contacted by my doctor personally to be advised. I became aware of it in December and of course was extremely concerned. I immediately contacted my surgeon to be advised their records detailed I had PIP implants. I was emailed the government link and advised the media was over reacting, and if I was concerned to contact my local GP.

I contacted my GP only to find they seem to be pretty clueless in the whole situation and I had to push for a recommendation for an ultra sound. I took my ultra sounds to my GP who was concerned at what he was looking at and didn't think it looked good however the report said otherwise.

This should have been the relief for me except it hasn't I don't feel relieved I feel like I'm living with the nightmare of wondering and waiting for something to happen. I'm scared to wear a bra or work out too hard. My everyday life has become about minimizing and avoiding anything that could possibly cause them to rupture. I have spoken to girls in a similar situation who had ultra sounds which picked up nothing only to find when they had their PIP removed they were ruptured and it had been missed in the ultra sound.

I had been studying for 8 months and just before finishing my study applied for another job and was offered a role. I resigned from my current company to follow a goal I had been working for and aiming to achieve over some time. I had organized to move to Sydney for 3 months of training required for this role and an intense 12 months to progress my career.

However the more I research about the PIP and the more I speak to women who have them, their ill health, the ruptures and what they have found after removing them I had to cancel taking this job and try to get my old job back as I wouldn't have been able to emotionally deal with what would be required of me in this new job in the state I'm currently in.

I struggle to get through the day without crying and struggle to sleep at night and am now taking sleeping tablets to try to help. I constantly think about it and am scared what is going to happen to me and what future health concerns I will have from this.

I have now booked in for an MRI and am currently trying to find a surgeon to help me get them removed asap. However as I bought a house 2 years ago I don't have the spare cash to be able to simply pay for the operation. My only way of being able to afford this will be to work 6 or 7 days a week and save the money until months and months down the

track I can finally rid myself of this nightmare. The longer I have to wait the harder it becomes the more depressed I become and the harder it becomes to get through each day. The worst part of this is not knowing. I appreciate there has been a contact number established for us to be able to contact and I have spoken to them however there doesn't seem to be anyone else that is aware of what is happening. There aren't any GPs that are aware and surgeons are advising mixed information as they aren't aware themselves. However to have most other countries in the world supporting women in this issue and assisting in removal and yet the TGA is advising not to remove them I just cant understand. I don't understand how anything was able to come into this country and be approved for medical use which wasn't safe? Now all the women out there in this situation sit in limbo not knowing, not even being contacted by there surgeons or being advised to even have them checked for ruptures? This is a living hell which we are going through and only time will tell of what the true outcome of this will be on our health.

Regards