



## PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### Senate Community Affairs References Committee

## Committee releases interim report for inquiry into support for Australia's thalidomide survivors

Issue date: 14 February 2019

The Senate Community Affairs References Committee has tabled an interim report for its inquiry into support for Australia's thalidomide survivors.

The committee's report makes seven recommendations to government departments, agencies and medical colleges.

'Evidence to the committee indicates that thalidomide survivors face significant health issues and physical impairments and have been inadequately supported to date,' the Committee's Chair, Senator Rachel Siewert said.

'This interim report makes a series of practical recommendations that the committee considers should be immediately implemented to assist thalidomide survivors, while the committee concludes its consideration of the issues surrounding the provision of an appropriate level of support for thalidomide survivors,' Senator Siewert said.

'The committee has received substantial evidence as to the need to revisit the issue of compensation for Australia's thalidomide survivors,' Senator Siewert said. 'The committee's final report, will more closely consider the role of the Commonwealth Government and the range of financial and non-financial supports needed to assist all Australian thalidomide survivors,' she said.

A copy of the interim report can be found here:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Community\\_Affairs/Recent\\_reports](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Recent_reports)

The committee will present its final report to the Senate on 22 March 2019.

**Media enquiries:** Office of Senator Rachel Siewert, Committee Chair on 0418 401 180.

**For background information:** contact the committee secretariat.

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#### DATE REFERRED

21 August 2018

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#### SUBMISSIONS CLOSE

21 September 2018

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#### INTERIM REPORT

14 February 2019

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#### FINAL REPORTING DATE

22 March 2019

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#### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Senator Rachel Siewert  
(Chair)

Senator Lucy Gichuhi  
(Deputy Chair)

Senator the Hon Kristina Keneally

Senator Steve Martin

Senator Louise Pratt

Senator Murray Watt

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#### CONTACT THE COMMITTEE

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## **Making a submission**

Written submissions can still be provided to the committee by emailing [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)

If you would like to make a submission you may find it helpful to read the guide to making a submission available on the Senate website: [Preparing a submission to an inquiry](#)

If you have questions, or need more time to write your submission, contact the secretariat.

Further information about the inquiry, including published submissions and hearing programs, is available on the committee website: [www.aph.gov.au/senate\\_ca](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca).

## **Inquiry Terms of Reference**

Support for Australia's thalidomide survivors, with particular reference to:

- a) adequacy of compensation and support;
- b) responsibility for providing support;
- c) provision of financial compensation;
- d) the role of the Australian Government in compensation and support; and
- e) any related matters.