

19<sup>th</sup> April 2012

To whom it may concern – senate inquiry regarding PIP Implants,

I found out the day after the 60 minutes report on ruptured PIP implants I called the surgery that I had my surgery through, The . They informed me that I did have these implants that have been internationally recalled but the TGA have told them that there is no need to worry as they aren't harmful or any more likely to rupture.

(My PIPs were implanted by on July 16 2004 – )

I decided to go to my GP and have an exam and ask for a referral for an ultrasound to check my implants. I hadn't had much pain or anything abnormal. My GP, informed me that there was a lump under my right arm. She gave me the referral and I promptly booked my ultrasound.

As my husband works away he had to take the next swing off of work to help support me, as after reading a lot in the media and finding the lump, I was very stressed. Made worse by the fact that I was 16 weeks pregnant at the time and have already been in hospital 3 times with severe hyperemesis gravidarum (severe 'morning sickness')

I went for my ultrasound, as I cannot have the recommended subsidised MRI scan as I am pregnant. (One think I do not understand is why ultrasound, the first point of testing isn't fully subsidised? When MRIs are? Even just for those unable to have the MRIs) the ultrasound confirmed that I have two extra capsular ruptures in my right implant and lumps in my lymph nodes. The results were written up straight away and I was recommended to go and see my GP that same day.

I went to see she was horrified. She wasn't sure who to send me to so she called a plastic surgeon who recommended that I come in straight away.

The time waiting in between was awful. 17 weeks pregnant and no idea what these implant, filled with non-surgical grade silicon, floating around my body in my body tissues and potentially crossing the placenta to my unborn baby.

I went the next week to see . My husband had to take more time off of work for this appointment also. I was so stressed I couldn't actually speak. , a plastic surgeon, recommended that I wait until after the baby is born for removal. He quoted about \$12500 for removal and replacement. A cost my family definitely cannot afford.

I am currently waiting for two more future appointments for other opinions with Plastic surgeons. Some say that I should have them out immediately as there is a danger to my baby.

I also have a 20month old boy who I breast fed, potentially with ruptured implants. says they could have been like that for years ☹ so there is also the stress of thinking I have potentially hurt him too.

Last year I was diagnosed with the auto immune disease of the thyroid, Graves Disease. On September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011 I had a full thyroidectomy. I am now being told that this could also be a result of the leaked silicon too. So I have had a vital organ removed which could have been prevented if I was informed of the implant recall.

At no time was I informed by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the recall, my contact details and mobile number are still the same. The thing I am most mad/ upset about is that before I became pregnant with my second child I would have checked my implants and sorted out my ruptures. I have endangered yet another child, unknowingly when this information was available to the Cosmetic Studio via the TGA. Even a letter of the recall would have been appreciated. But instead... nothing.

I feel an injustice has occurred as no one in Australia will admit that these implants are dangerous to women's health. The contents is unknown, enough said.

So in summary I have:

- I was implanted with PIP Implants by \_\_\_\_\_.
- I found out via the 60 minute report that these implants had been recalled
- Went to GP for exam, found lumps and was recommended ultrasound as pregnant and unable to have MRI
- 2 extra capsular ruptures of PIP implants
- Lumps of silicon in my lymph nodes under my right arm
- I am currently 20 weeks pregnant
- I have a 20 month old son whom I breast fed
- I had Graves Disease (auto immune disease of the thyroid) and had a full thyroidectomy September 2011

Overall I am very upset, angry and extremely stressed at the health risks to myself, my son and unborn child. This is a time that I should be calm and happy watching my family grow instead I can't sleep thinking of how I will afford the next plastic surgeon consult fee let alone the cost of removing these toxic implants from my body. Someone needs to do something to fix this.

Sincerely,