



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Senate Community Affairs References Committee

Senate mesh implant inquiry – more time to lodge submissions

The Senate Community Affairs References Inquiry is conducting an inquiry into the experience of women in Australia who have had transvaginal mesh implants.

The committee is seeking to identify the number of women in Australia who have had transvaginal mesh implants; the number who have experienced adverse side effects; and the number who have sought to have the mesh removed.

The committee will examine the types and incidence of health problems experienced by women who have had this surgery, and the impact this has had on their lives. The committee will also examine the information available to patients and doctors about this surgery; any incentives offered to medical practitioners in relation to the use of transvaginal mesh implants and the role of the Therapeutic Goods Administration's role in regulating and monitoring the use of transvaginal mesh implants.

"The committee is very interested to hear directly from women who have had transvaginal mesh implants as well as from medical practitioners, academics, advocates and support groups", said Committee Chair Senator Rachel Siewert.

"The committee has extended the time for people to make submissions until **Friday 30 June 2017** and hopes that this additional time will help ensure that people have an opportunity to contribute to the inquiry" she said.

"The committee encourages people to visit the committee's website to read the terms of reference for the inquiry and information about how to make a submission. People can also speak to the committee's secretariat, who can guide them through this process," Senator Siewert said.

The committee plans to hold public hearings at locations around Australia. A program of hearings will be released after the close of submissions

DATE REFERRED

15 February 2017

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE

30 June 2017

NEXT HEARING

TBA

REPORTING DATE

30 November 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Senator Rachel Siewert
(Chair)

Senator Jonathon Duniam
(Deputy Chair)

Senator Sam Dastyari

Senator Louise Pratt

Senator Linda Reynolds

Senator Murray Watt

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Making a submission

Written submissions can still be provided to the committee via the online submission system or by emailing 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.

Inquiry Terms of Reference

- (1) The number of women in Australia:
 - (a) who have had transvaginal mesh implants;
 - (b) who have had transvaginal mesh implants who have experienced adverse side effects; and
 - (c) who have made attempts to have the mesh removed in Australia or elsewhere.
- (2) Information provided to women prior to surgery about possible complications and side effects.
- (3) Information provided to doctors regarding transvaginal mesh implants and possible complications and side effects.
- (4) Any financial or other incentives provided to medical practitioners to use or promote transvaginal mesh implants.
- (5) The types and incidence of health problems experienced by women with transvaginal mesh implants and the impact these health problems have had on women's lives.
- (6) The Therapeutic Goods Administration's:
 - (a) role in investigating the suitability of the implants for use in Australia;
 - (b) role in ongoing monitoring of the suitability of the implants; and
 - (c) knowledge of women suffering with health problems after having transvaginal mesh implants.
- (7) Options available to women to have transvaginal mesh removed.

Attending a public hearing

Most committee hearings are held in public and anyone is welcome to come and listen. The audio and video of each hearing will also be broadcast live on the internet: www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament

Further information about what to expect when attending a Senate committee hearings is available on the Senate website: [Attending a public hearing](#)