

Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communication
Department of the Senate.
PO Box 6100, Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600.



20th August 2011

Dear Sirs,

Unfortunately I recently became aware of the problems that lay ahead for me when the Australian Broadcasting Co on a Television Show "4 Corners" which I saw and had my TV take all the facts on record. This programme made it quite clear what a very poor outlook any folk who like me who had a Cobalt – Metal to Metal Hip reconstruction implanted in their body.

My first step was to arrange for a set of tests to be carried out and sadly became aware that my body was invaded by a metal called Cobalt. 529 O*H noul This reading of the amount of the metal means little to me except it indicated the reason why my once athletic physical ability had tumbled and my pain and debility to stand let alone walk was now making it almost impossible to even be close to normal in any way.

My horror at the sight of how the much worse infections and associated problems some of the debilitated folk were suffering, and I personally feel sorrow about what they are being forced to endure.

Even when I consider my 4 full hip replacements and 12 hip dislocations I felt lucky that my last dislocation was repaired by a different doctor who did not like metal on metal Cobalt units. I am not aware of his reasoning but applaud the results. His actions kept me out of some of the horrors that would have come my way. When that new hip was installed I had no knowledge of why he had done so but later sent him a Xmas card and thanks because of a plate and two 3 inch screws which stopped the dislocations. (hurrah) When I think about what the message bought out by the 4 Corners show, then consider about what the messages have implied of how the originators of the Cobalt units appear very shy when questioned, frankly without a lot of research I am unable to link dates to my receipt of the unit but feel the bad news was freely known but ignored when I was implanted. If you require me to provide these dates I will request that you do not mention any names and request my name be kept secret.

I am thinking that if a class action comes forward that it should be supported because if proven the instigators deserve a severe punishment.

I applaud your actions and wish your efforts bear well for future people who run into problems of this sort or type in the future.

In my enquiries I was fortunate to contact Senior Research Officer
and now place the above facts for consideration and if in any way I can help the matter to go forward offer to do so