

To Whom It May Concern

I would like the following submission to be included in the senate inquiry for PIP breast implants. I have registered on the inquiry website however I have been informed that the site has been experiencing difficulties and emails are accepted.

My name is Nicole Janeway and I'm 24 years old. I made the decision to have breast augmentation during my deployment to the middle east, I was a sailor with RAN. On return to Australia I arranged my appointment and surgery at the office of _____ in _____. I put complete faith in _____ as I knew the risks of cheap surgery overseas. My surgery was on May 20 2008.

In January this year, my partner was posted to ADFA in Canberra and I relocated with him. I now work for Rio Tinto in a fly in fly out role in a remote mine site in northern Western Australia and commute from Canberra.

After seeing several news stories regarding PIPs and their scrutiny in the media, initially, I wasn't concerned, as I had received no contact from surgeon to inform me that these were the implants that I had. I wasn't aware at the time that I was a recipient of PIPs. After several more stories were frequenting local news I decided to email my surgeon for confirmation of the brand of my implants. To my shock I was informed that I had PIPs and should see a doctor and schedule a removal with _____ ASAP.

I was working on site at the time of receiving the email and became hysterical. Luckily for me I was flying back to Canberra that afternoon so I could schedule doctors appointments. I was reluctant to book the surgery due to financial constraints, time off work, travel costs from Canberra to Perth and not having somewhere to stay in Perth to recover.

At this stage I have no evidence of rupture for the pure fact that I haven't had an MRI at this point. My surgery is scheduled for May 21st and I will be having an MRI closer to that date as I do not want to put myself through more emotional trauma worrying about ruptures or any other complications.

The TGAs current stance on the PIPs initially made me reluctant to have the removal, I am getting married next year and this is an expense I feel I shouldn't have to pay. Now after more media attention and the stress of not knowing what is currently sitting inside my body, I have decided to have the removal. The 60 Minutes interview several weeks ago with the Doctor who was advising the TGA was infuriating. If they felt the need to recall the products that hadn't been implanted, what makes the ones that had already been put in women's bodies any less risky?

I am saddened that the TGA will not take responsibility for letting and inferior product into the country. A product which is damaging lives. I feel we are being discriminated against as the public consensus seems to be that breast implants are about vanity and therefore we shouldn't be eligible for compensation. In my opinion this is most unaustralian. We didn't get a fair go. At the end of the day I didn't get what I paid for. Now I am further out of pocket and emotionally scarred. I find it hard to be intimate with my partner and we have put off having children until I am PIP free.

I work 2 hours from the nearest hospital, if I were to have any adverse reactions to the PIPs it is along way to travel for treatment. This is constantly in the back of my mind during my working day, I won't even lift heavy boxes in fear of straining my implants. It may sound crazy but that is how much I am affected.

All I ask of this inquiry is for the members to consider how they would feel if it were themselves or their families with these potentially toxic implants. I have joined the class action suit with TGB. I do not seek financial reward, just reimbursement of my costs. I feel that without government support we may not receive the justice that we deserve.

Kind Regards

Nikki Janeway