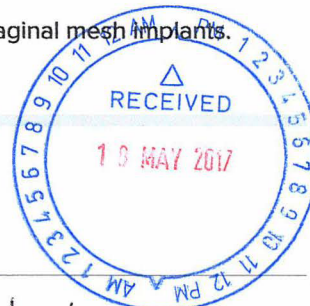


## Submission to Senate Community Affairs References Committee

I am writing this submission as a result of my personal experience of the effects of transvaginal mesh implants.



### Name and contact details

Name

Address

Date of Birth

12/12/1953

Contact number

Email address

State

Postcode

Terms of Reference 1: The number of women in Australia who have been impacted

1. Have you or a family member had a transvaginal mesh implant?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If Yes, please share your experience:

I had a prolapse bladder, so I had a transvaginal mesh implant to lift up my bladder

2. Have you or your family member experienced adverse side effects as a result of the transvaginal mesh implant?  
(full details are provided at Terms of Reference 5, below)

☒ Yes

☐ No

If Yes, please share your experience:

after having the mesh implant I had so that was to fix but, the first sling failed, so I had that removed then another mesh implant, but then I started getting really bad bladder infections, so I had to have lots of antibiotics

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Terms of Reference 2: Information provided to women prior to surgery about possible complications and side effects

**1. What information was given to you or your family member prior to surgery to implant the transvaginal mesh?**

I was told that the sling or mesh could reject but mainly told about what can go wrong with anaesthetic

**2. How was this information provided to you? (eg. brochures, verbally, websites)**

verbally

**3. Do you have any suggestions or recommendations as to what information you think women should receive before they receive a transvaginal mesh implant?**

just not to rush into it, make sure that it would be at least 90% safe.

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**3. Have you or your family member had the mesh removed or made attempts to have the mesh removed in Australia or elsewhere? (full details are provided at Terms of Reference 7, below)**

☒ Yes

☐ No

If Yes, please share your experience: I had to have the mesh removed out of my bladder as it had eroded into the bladder which was a major surgery done by a urologist. I had to go back in again and have taken out the rest or most of it. there was some pieces that is just to hard to remove.

**4. Do you have any suggestions or recommendations about changes to laws, policy and practices in relation to transvaginal mesh implants or similar products?**

that it is thoroughly investigated to make sure things like what happened to me would not happen.

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Terms of Reference 3: Information provided to doctors regarding transvaginal mesh implants and possible complications and side effects

**1. What is your experience of doctors' knowledge of transvaginal mesh implants, complications and side effects?**

I think the drs do the best they can,

**2. Have you found information about transvaginal mesh including complications and side effects that your doctor (GP or specialists) was not aware of?**

probably the fact that erosion can happen into other organs.

**3. Do you have any suggestions or recommendations about what information you think doctors should be provided with in relation to transvaginal mesh?**

No

**4. How could women adversely affected by transvaginal mesh implants tell their stories to doctors?**

by visiting and having to explain what has and can happen face to face.



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Terms of Reference 4: Any financial or other incentives provided to medical practitioners to use or promote transvaginal mesh implants

- 1. Do you know of or do you have evidence of incentives being provided to medical practitioners to use or promote transvaginal mesh implants?**

No

- 2. Do you have any suggestions or recommendations about the provision of incentives to medical practitioners for using or promoting transvaginal mesh implants?**

No

Terms of Reference 5: The types and incidence of health problems experienced by women with transvaginal mesh implants and the impact these health problems have had on their lives

- 1. This is the opportunity to tell your and/or your family member's story about how transvaginal mesh implants have affected you and your family. These impacts do not have to be limited to health issues but may also extend to issues around relationships, finances, employment or any other part of life that has been affected.**

the terrible bladder infections, that are so bad you can't sleep and if you go out you need toilets close by as the bladder just gets so uncomfortable it affected my day to day life also night it has affected my sex life also and now I don't have as many infections but get a lot of discomfort and now incontinence which has also affected my life.

I can have more surgery but I am not keen after what I have gone through. I will just have to see

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Are there any final comments you would like to make?

No

Submissions can be made to the Committee in writing by 31 May 2017 and should be sent to the Committee Secretariat contact:

**Committee Secretary**  
**Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs**  
**PO Box 6100**  
**Parliament House**  
**Canberra ACT 2600**

Phone: +61 2 6277 3515  
[community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)

If you would like more time to finalise your submission, an extension can be requested by emailing the secretariat at [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au) or telephone on 02 62773515.

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Terms of Reference 7: Options available to women to have transvaginal mesh removed

**1. What is your experience of trying to have transvaginal mesh removed?**

a urologist moved mine, but they still couldn't get to some parts as it was dangerous or the surgery would have been drastic

**2. Do you know of anywhere (in Australia or internationally) where it is easier for women to have mesh removed?**

I thought a urologist

**3. Do you have any recommendations or suggestions about what would make it easier for women seeking to have mesh removed in Australia?**

no I just hope they don't have to suffer too much



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4. Are there other government agencies (apart from the TGA) who could or should have a role in this?

that I don't know

5. In your opinion, is there anywhere (in Australia or internationally) that does a good job in these areas?

No

6. Do you have any recommendations about changes that might be needed to laws, policy and practices in relation to regulation of medical devices in Australia?

just that it is well tested before used on prolapse  
on women.

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Terms of Reference 6: The Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) role in a) investigating the suitability of the implants for use in Australia; b) ongoing monitoring of the suitability of the implants; and c) knowledge of women suffering with health problems after having transvaginal mesh implants

**1. What experience have you had with the TGA?**

None.

**2. What do you think of the current work the TGA is undertaking in this area?**

that I don't know

**3. What is needed to improve the work of the TGA in this area?**

I am not sure.