



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Senate Community Affairs References Committee

Senate transvaginal mesh implants inquiry opportunities to speak to the committee

The Senate Community Affairs Committee will begin holding public hearings for its inquiry into transvaginal mesh implants on Thursday 3 August in Melbourne and on Friday 25 August 2017 in Perth. The committee will hear evidence from private individuals, medical practitioners, academics, advocates and support groups as well as relevant government agencies.

"It is very important for the committee to hear directly from women who have had this surgery and the impact this has had on their lives, so the committee will allocate time for this at each of its public hearings", said committee Chair, Senator Rachel Siewert.

Anyone who wishes to make a short, three minute statement to the committee at one of its public hearings about their experience should email the committee secretariat to register their interest: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au.

Opportunities to speak will be allocated in the order in which they are received.

Committee hearings are broadcast live and a written transcript of each hearing is published on the inquiry website.

"If anyone would prefer to speak to the committee in private, they should let the secretariat know this when they register", Senator Siewert said.

The committee plans to hold further hearings and will publish the dates for these on the inquiry website.

"The committee recognises that not everyone who would like to will be able to attend a public hearing and speak to the committee", said Senator Siewert. "Hundreds of people have provided the committee with written personal accounts and these are proving very valuable in assisting the committee to understand the matters it is looking at in this inquiry", she said.

If you are unable to attend the committee's hearings you can listen to the proceedings on-line: http://www.aph.gov.au/Watch_Read_Listen

Further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, is available on the inquiry website: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/MeshImplants

DATE REFERRED

15 February 2017

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE

30 June 2017

NEXT HEARINGS

3 August – Melbourne

25 August – Perth

Further hearings to be advised

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

**Other Senators
participating:**

Senator Jacinta Collins

Senator Derryn Hinch

CONTACT THE COMMITTEE

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on Community Affairs

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community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Attending a public hearing

Most committee hearings are held in public and anyone is welcome to come and listen. The audio of each hearing (and video of hearings held at Parliament House in Canberra) will also be broadcast live on the internet: http://www.aph.gov.au/Watch_Read_Listen

*Attendance at private hearings is restricted to those witnesses giving evidence, committee members and secretariat staff.

A transcript is made of each hearing and the transcripts of public hearings are published on the committee's website. Transcripts of private sessions are not published.

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

How to register your interest in speaking to the committee:

If you, or someone you know, would like to speak to the committee about your personal experience of transvaginal mesh implants, please email the following information to the committee as soon as possible to register your interest:

Preferred hearing location: <i>eg Melbourne</i>		Would you prefer to speak to the committee at a public or private hearing session? (See * above)
Title <i>eg Mr, Ms, Mrs, Miss, Dr</i>	First name: <i>eg: Jenny</i>	Family name: <i>eg: Citizen</i>
Telephone number: <i>eg 02 62773005</i>		Email address: <i>eg: jenny.citizen@hotmail.com</i>

Please note:

This information will only be used to contact you in relation to the committee's hearings. It will not be made public or provided to anyone other than members of the committee and its staff.

What happens next

Requests to speak to the committee will be processed in the order in which they are received. The committee's staff will allocate a time to each individual on the day they have requested, taking account of any requests to speak in public or in private.

The committee staff will send you an email confirming the time at which you may speak to the committee and the hearing location. You will be sent a witness form to complete and information on the protection of witnesses and parliamentary privilege.

If all time slots for individual statements at the hearing you would like to attend have been allocated, you will receive an email telling you this. You can still attend and listen to the hearing.

What to expect on the day of the hearing

When it is time for individuals to speak to the committee, the Chair of the committee will invite the individuals in each panel to come forward to the witness table. Each individual will be asked to state their first name and to confirm that they have received information about the protection of witnesses and parliamentary privilege.

Each individual will have the opportunity to speak to the committee for three (3) minutes. At the conclusion of your time, a bell will sound and you should finish your sentence and then the committee will hear from the next person.

Members of the committee may ask you some questions about what you have said.