



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Senate Community Affairs References Committee

Second public hearing for inquiry into support for Australia's thalidomide survivors

The Senate Community Affairs References Committee is holding a public hearing for its inquiry into support for Australia's thalidomide survivors tomorrow, 31 January 2019. The hearing will be in Sydney, in the Macquarie Room of the NSW Parliament, from 8.30am – 5.00pm.

'The committee has invited thalidomide survivors and other witnesses to give evidence at the hearing so that the committee can hear first-hand of the lived-experiences and support requirements of survivors. The committee has already received evidence describing the significant daily challenges faced by thalidomide survivors and how their support requirements are likely to change in the future,' said the Committee's Chair, Senator Rachel Siewert.

'The hearing will provide an opportunity for witnesses to share the life experiences of thalidomide survivors with the committee and outline the solutions needed to best meet survivors' support requirements,' Senator Siewert said.

The committee welcomes submissions from anyone with knowledge regarding the health outcomes and support requirements of Australia's thalidomide survivors. 'While the formal date for submissions has passed, the committee will consider submissions from individuals or organisations who may be able to provide information relevant to the inquiry', Senator Siewert said.

The program for the hearing, and further information about the inquiry, including submissions received to date, can be found on the committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca.

Media enquiries: Office of Senator Rachel Siewert, Committee Chair on 0418 401 180.

For background information: contact the committee secretariat.

Attending the public hearing

Most sessions of the hearing will be held in public and anyone is welcome to come and listen. The audio 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 hearing is available on the Senate website: [Attending a public hearing](#).

DATE REFERRED

21 August 2018

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE

21 September 2018

NEXT HEARING

31 January 2019

REPORTING DATE

13 February 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Senator Rachel Siewert
(Chair)

Senator Lucy Gichuhi
(Deputy Chair)

Senator the Hon Kristina
Keneally

Senator Steve Martin

Senator Louise Pratt

Senator Murray Watt

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Making a submission

Written submissions can still be provided to the committee 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](#).

Terms of Reference

Support for Australia's thalidomide survivors, with particular reference to:

- a. adequacy of compensation and support;
- b. responsibility for providing support;
- c. provision of financial compensation;
- d. the role of the Australian Government in compensation and support; and
- e. any related matters.