



## PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

### Senate Community Affairs References Committee

# Inquiry considers support for Australia's thalidomide survivors

The Senate Community Affairs References Committee (committee) is seeking further evidence in its examination of support provided to Australia's thalidomide survivors and has decided to extend its reporting date to 13 February 2019 to facilitate this.

The committee has already held a public hearing in Melbourne on 2 November 2018 and has received over 50 written submissions.

'At the committee's hearing in Melbourne we were able to hear first-hand the lived experience of thalidomide survivors and their families' said committee chair, Senator Rachel Siewert. 'This gave us an insight into the impact thalidomide injuries have on survivors' lives and the health and financial challenges they continue to face.'

'The committee recognises that thalidomide survivors' circumstances are highly individualised and survivors are best placed to inform the committee regarding their future health and support requirements', Senator Siewert said.

At the same time, the committee would like to hear from others in the community who have experience or knowledge that will assist the committee to understand the needs of thalidomide survivors and the financial and practical support they require. 'We would welcome submissions from medical practitioners, disability advocates, academics and other professionals who might be able to assist us', Senator Siewert said.

While the initial date for lodging submissions has passed, the committee will still accept submissions to the inquiry. Submissions can be emailed to [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au).

The committee plans to have a second public hearing in Sydney on 31 January 2019. If you would like to participate in this hearing, please contact the committee's secretariat by email or telephone.

Arrangements for the hearing will be posted on the inquiry webpage: [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Community\\_Affairs/ThalidomideSurvivors](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/ThalidomideSurvivors).

The webpage has a range of information about the inquiry, including its terms of reference, public submissions and the transcript of the committee's Melbourne hearing.

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**DATE REFERRED**

21 August 2018

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**SUBMISSIONS CLOSE**

21 September 2018

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**NEXT HEARING**

31 January 2019

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**REPORTING DATE**

13 February 2019

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**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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**CONTACT THE COMMITTEE**

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## **Making a submission**

Written submissions can still be provided to the committee by emailing [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto: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](#).

If you have questions, or need more time to write your submission, please contact the secretariat.

Further information about the inquiry, including published submissions and hearing programs, is available on the committee website: [www.aph.gov.au/senate\\_ca](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca).

## **Attending a public hearing**

Most committee hearings are held in public and anyone is welcome to come and listen. The audio and video of each hearing will also be broadcast live on the internet: [www.aph.gov.au/News\\_and\\_Events/Watch\\_Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament).

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

## **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.