

Tuesday, 30 May 2017

Committee Secretary
Senate Community Affairs References Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Dear Committee Secretary,

RE: Inquiry: Number of women in Australia who have had transvaginal mesh implants and related matters

The Australasian Gynaecological Endoscopy and Surgery (AGES) Society is the largest single society of Fellows and trainees of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists whose 700 members (representing 1/3 of all O&G fellows) have specific interest in gynaecology surgery and in many cases advanced surgical training in a variety of areas including pelvic floor surgery.

Our Society has a long standing track record of providing education in the area of pelvic floor surgery, responsible for the initiation and organisation of a specific 2-day scientific meeting devoted to this area in 2005 that has been running annually since. This meeting presents and discusses the evidence around the use of all kinds of procedures for women with problems of the pelvic floor including graft procedures, promoting the latest research and development to keep members at the forefront of developments in this area.

The AGES Society holds frequent workshops in association with our annual pelvic floor meeting with national and international experts presenting to take members through patient selection, issues of informed consent and hands on skill development for a variety of different procedures.

Our Society endorses the need to provide sound scientific evidence regarding risks and benefits for procedures and open disclosure for all issues associated with pelvic graft procedures, and will work with the senate inquiry in this regard. We support all specialist obstetricians and gynaecologists who are appropriately skilled, trained and credentialed to continue practicing their entire skill set to benefit women with these clinical problems. We will liaise with our members through the process of the inquiry to make sure the best results are achieved for women both now and into the future for this specific issue of transvaginal mesh surgery.

Kind regards,

A/Prof Jason Abbott
President, AGES

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A/Prof Jason Abbott

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