



Friday 22 November 2019

## **Joint Media Statement by Health Consumers Councils across Australia:**

**Health Consumers Alliance of SA  
Health Issues Centre (Vic)  
Health Consumers Queensland  
Health Consumers' Council (WA)  
Health Care Consumers Association (ACT)  
Health Consumers New South Wales  
Health Consumers Tasmania**

### ***Vindicated! But Justice deferred***

Peak state Health Consumer bodies have welcomed the judgement vindicating the more than 1200 mesh injured women who participated in the Shine class action against Johnson & Johnson but reserved judgement on the outcome until the size of the final settlement was announced.

Julia Overton, Chief Executive of Health Consumers Alliance of SA Inc strongly supports an individual financial allocation that takes into account the significant accumulated out of pocket costs for consequent medical procedures and to manage their injuries, often ongoing and long-term and the costs of participating in the current class action themselves which has resulted in a legacy of financial burden for these women.

“Specialist reports, access to medical records and fees for lodging legal proceedings add up to thousands of dollars and that’s before the lawyers take their not inconsiderable fees.”

“Even if the pay-out covers the costs of what could be lifelong treatment, it isn’t going to compensate for lost opportunity, curtailed careers and damaged relationships.”

“We can only hope that all this is taken into account when the court determines the appropriate level of compensation”.

We applaud the court findings other than the characterisation of the actions of Johnson & Johnson as “negligent”. Negligence suggests carelessness whereas J&J is culpable due to its wilful disregard of decades of evidence that their Ethicon device was responsible for numerous reports of adverse impact.

Health Consumers Alliance of SA Inc recognise the courage and voice of mesh injured women and their strength in undertaking this class action to its successful completion.

We call on the Government, through its regulatory agent the TGA to ensure that innocent people are never again left hostage to the unscrupulous greed of medical device manufacturers.

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