

From an ABC spokesperson:

Australian Story followed up its 2019 episode on Ghanim Al Shnen to let viewers know he had been reunited with his family after 12 years and show how he has adapted to his robotic arms. Viewers responded strongly to the initial episode and we felt they would value the update.

The story is about Ghanim and the surgery allowing him to be fitted with robotic arms is a fundamental part of his story. Ghanim has no issues with his surgery, its outcome or his treatment. As the doctor responsible for the surgery, Dr Munjed Al Muderis' role was small but integral to the narrative.

No questions about Al Muderis had been raised at the time of the original episode and the update was filmed before a decision on his defamation case was handed down. In light of the questions raised before and during the trial we edited references to Al Muderis from the updated episode as much as possible. In a 30-minute episode, a little over four minutes contains material related to Al Muderis.

In light of the court's findings, on-screen information was inserted immediately following the surgery sequence that accurately conveyed the gravity of the allegations. It said: "After the 2019 episode aired, Dr Al Muderis was accused by Nine Media of downplaying the risks of osseointegration surgery, improper sales tactics, inappropriate patient selection and inadequate aftercare. After Al Muderis failed in a defamation action, a judge found he 'prioritise[d] fame, numbers and money over his patients'."

The episode was not about osseointegration surgery so did not include a high level of detail about the procedure. The episode acknowledged complications can arise from the surgery, which remains one of the options available for amputees.

As the digital story did not focus on the surgery the original brief references to the negative findings against Al Muderis were not material to it and an editorial decision was made to remove them. The article also included the acknowledgment that: "Osseointegration is a controversial and risky procedure. The point at which the titanium rod emerges from the skin requires ongoing care to prevent infection and it's not a procedure that suits every patient. It is possible to attach mind-controlled robotic limbs using less-invasive methods."

There were no errors and nothing misleading in the original version so there was no need for an editor's note or a post on the Corrections page. This is consistent

with the editorial guidance, which states a note should be included “when we have corrected or clarified the content and need to disclose the change to the audience”. The episode meets the ABC’s Editorial Standards and remains available.