



Inquiry into birth trauma

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. That a select committee be established to inquire into and report on birth trauma, and in particular:
 - (a) the experience and prevalence of birth trauma (including, but not limited to, as a result of inappropriate, disrespectful or abusive treatment before, during and after birth, also referred to as "obstetric violence")
 - (b) causes and factors contributing to birth trauma including:
 - (i) evaluation of current practices in obstetric care
 - (ii) use of instruments and devices for assisted birth e.g., forceps and ventouse
 - (iii) the availability of, and systemic barriers to, trauma-informed care being provided during pregnancy, during birth and following birth
 - (c) the physical, emotional, psychological, and economic impacts of birth trauma, including both short and long term impacts on patients and their families and health workers
 - (d) exacerbating factors in delivering and accessing maternity care that impact on birth trauma generally, but also in particular:
 - (i) people in regional, rural and remote New South Wales
 - (ii) First Nations people
 - (iii) people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds
 - (iv) LGBTQIA+ people
 - (v) young parents
 - (e) the role and importance of "informed choice" in maternity care
 - (f) barriers to the provision of "continuity of care" in maternity care
 - (g) the information available to patients regarding maternity care options prior to and during their care
 - (h) whether current legal and regulatory settings are sufficient to protect women from experiencing birth trauma
 - (i) any legislative, policy or other reforms likely to prevent birth trauma, and
 - (j) any other related matter.

2. That the committee report by 3 June 2024.¹

The terms of reference for the inquiry were referred to the committee by the Legislative Council on 21 June 2023.²

Committee membership

Hon Emma Hurst MLC	Animal Justice Party	<i>Chair</i>
Hon Susan Carter MLC	Liberal Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Hon Mark Banasiak MLC	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	
Dr Amanda Cohn MLC	The Greens	
Hon Anthony D'Adam MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC	Liberal Party	
Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC	The Nationals	
Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC*	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Emily Suvaal MLC	Australian Labor Party	

* The Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC replaced the Hon Greg Donnelly MLC as a substantive member of the committee from 16 May 2024.

¹ The original reporting date was 1 February 2024 (*Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 21 June 2023, pp 208-211). The reporting date was later extended to 3 June 2024 (*Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 September 2023, p 435).

² *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 21 June 2023, pp 208-211.