



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON BIRTH TRAUMA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA COMMENCES

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3 July 2023

Members of the community are invited to contribute to a new parliamentary inquiry established to examine birth trauma in New South Wales.

The Upper House committee is exploring the experience and prevalence of birth trauma across the state particularly instances of inappropriate, disrespectful or abusive treatment before, during and after birth. The committee will consider the causes of birth trauma, and its physical, emotional, psychological and economic impacts.

Additionally, the committee is investigating exacerbating factors in delivering and accessing maternity care that impact on birth trauma, particularly amongst people in regional, rural and remote New South Wales, First Nations people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, LGBTQIA+ people, and young parents.

The Chair of the Select Committee, the Hon Emma Hurst MLC, emphasised the importance of the inquiry: "This inquiry will address growing concerns surrounding the rates of birth trauma, and consider what legislative, policy or other reforms can be enacted to prevent birth trauma."

"Birth trauma can have significant physical and psychological consequences and can leave women feeling confused and disempowered at a vulnerable and important moment in their lives", the Chair continued.

The committee is due to report by 1 February 2024.

#### Have your say

The committee is keen to hear from stakeholders and members of the community. Submissions can be lodged online until **Friday 11 August 2023**.

For more information about this inquiry, including the committee membership, the terms of reference, and to lodge a submission, see the [inquiry webpage](#).

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Emma Hurst MLC, on (02) 9230 3462*