

11 March 2024

Select Committee  
NSW Government  
Birth Trauma Inquiry



Dear Select Committee,

My experience is typical. I was 22 weeks pregnant with twins with a cervical suture already in situ and the only treatment available to help continue my pregnancy was hospitalisation and bedrest. At 25 weeks I went into labour and underwent an emergency c-section under general anaesthetic. After hours in recovery I was taken to the post natal ward. I was not taken to visit my babies when moved between recovery and the post natal ward. It was hours before I got to see my babies. I was in a single room, I couldn't breathe and was petrified. Would my babies survive? No one helped me express my milk until almost 24 hours after their birth. On day 2 of life my son Marcus died. I was discharged home the next day. I didn't want to be alone in a hospital bed, I needed to be home grieving with my husband, daughter and family. I couldn't sleep, I called the hospital numerous times every night, concerned the other twin would die as well. Visiting the hospital was exhausting, it affected my milk supply. Within a few weeks my weight dropped below my pre pregnancy weight. When visiting there was no where for me to rest to recover from my major surgery. It was difficult to meet the need to visit, produce breast milk and tend to my own health. I did not have the opportunity to recover from my major surgery. As a consequence I developed E. coli septicaemia and was re-admitted to hospital. I wish I was able to stay with my surviving baby. I was worried that if she died I may not be at her side. She did develop a life threatening bowel inflammation, necrotizing enterocolitis. I was told babies can die from this condition. Despite being told this horrific news I wasn't able to stay by her bedside. During this time my husband was self employed and our only financial provider. He had no access to paternity leave so had to continue working during this time. The stories in our submission expand on these themes. It was hard for me. I can't imagine what it must be like for a mother from a disadvantaged, rural or indigenous background.

Yours Sincerely,

## Kylie Pussell

CEO & CoFounder

Founding & Chair Committee GLANCE

EFCNI Parent & Patient Board Member

Mum to 3 surviving miracle babies

Miracle Babies Foundation