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**Subject:** My opening statement

In 2019, my life was turned upside down, simply because of the negligence of a hospital in New South Wales. It's not every day that you hear about a 21 year old suffering from multiple strokes, 9 days post-partum.

I'm sure you all have read my submission prior of my speaking here today so I'll be brief and I do apologise in advance of my emotions getting the better of me, however, I will try to hold them back as much as possible

After giving birth to my youngest child, my placenta split, got caught and was unable to pass by itself. Rather than sending me to the theatre after multiple attempts to push out the remains of the placenta by pushing down on my stomach, the doctor decided to perform the most inhumane procedure I've ever heard of, and quite frankly, it still gives me nightmares and flashbacks.

While I was in the maternity ward, where I expressed my concerns on my blood pressure being high, the doctor was adamant that it would regulate itself. Did it? No. Did I get a second opinion? No, why should I have too? I should be able to trust all doctors, but in this case, my trust was broken.

5th of June, I had 6 strokes. Five small strokes and a life threatening stroke that could've taken my life. At 21 years old, I had to teach myself how to talk, how to walk; I was dependent on my family and nurses to complete normal daily tasks, such as shower, use the toilet, eat and clothe myself.

I believe my strokes could've been avoided by many things. 1) a doctor listening to my concerns, because, well I know my own body better than anyone, and I knew something was wrong. 2) if a midwife came for a home visit to follow up with my vitals. I could have been medicated, like I was with my first 2 pregnancies. 3) the horrible non-consensual procedure that was performed, if the doctor did the normal thing to do, such as surgically removed the placenta, I wouldn't have a tear in my carotid artery.

I am very so lucky to be alive and I appreciate every single day I have on earth with my baby's, but that doesn't stop with the trauma and challenges I have to face every single day. I am not just a mother of three now, I am more than that. I'm a victim of medical negligence, I am survivor of multiple strokes and I am woman with PTSD and severe anxiety and depression.

My neurologist told me and I quote, "the chances of me having another stroke is the same as the next person" and I still think that was his way of saying it wasn't MY fault I suffered, without saying it directly. I was healthy. I had no clotting disorders or any other underlying issues. So why did I have my strokes? Unfortunately, I will never know.

In hospital's, all patients should feel safe and comfortable, and apparently, I'm not the only person who's experienced such disgusting and horrific encounters, whether it was a medical staff or the health system seeming to be "broken". And with 4000+ submissions, this really disheartens me.

My appearance here today isn't a woe is me sob story. My expectations for today is to be heard. For the 4000+ submissions to be heard. For no other women or family to endure the heartache my family and I had to suffer. For all mothers to feel safe, to