

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

6 months ago I gave birth at \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital. Prior to being induced I was told I was "3cm" so I decided to go ahead with it. Later to find on my discharge notes I was "4cm." My waters were not broken properly to begin with and this was not further looked into at the time. After 12hrs labouring was when they discovered my bub was in a weird "posterior transverse position." To be told "you are going to need a C-section due to not progressing passed 5cm." I was then checked by a Dr who had said I was unevenly dilated. I was told nothing would change after having the epidural and that I'd just have to go for a C-section.

After having the epi and then being checked again I'd quickly dilated to an even 8cm. There was no suggestion of changing positions, using the bath or even suggesting things to try and help the baby move positions. I was woken up once the epi had slightly worn off and was told I needed to start pushing. During this I asked multiple times to press the button for the epidural due to the intense back pain I was feeling and due to the pain suddenly coming on after not feeling anything for about 6 hours. I kept being told "no" and the head midwife said to my mum "this is what's wrong with today's generation they just expect everything handed to them." I wasn't allowed any gas during the pushing stage and no one suggested massaging or a heat back for the back pain either. The midwife finally said "yes" to me pressing the button for the epidural to which I did and it wasn't working (unsure if they turned it off or was nothing left).

The student midwife was the one to deliver to my baby with no assistance or guidance from any of the other midwife's. Once bub was born no where said anything. My partner had to move around the midwife to check the sex of bub. During this they then told my partner to cut the cord and had to suction him. I asked "is he okay" no one said a word. My mum then said "he is okay" not knowing if he was or what was having to happen. They didn't inform me of needing to cut the cord or why it had to happen. They still didn't even let me know why he had to be suctioned once they had sat him on the bed for me to see. I was then checked over by the locum Dr. The Dr was asking the student midwife whether "this vagina part goes here or there" "does that look okay", she was asking my mum to get equipment out of the cupboard for her, got my mum to weigh the blood soaked sheets, and stated that she had used the wrong stitches internally but it should be fine. The only midwife that was helping was the student midwife (there was about 4 midwife's in total). Re-watching the video of this unfolding is traumatic.

I was then left for over a week before anyone checked me, with my stitches coming apart and an infected vagina. Prior to this I had asked the midwife and was told it was normal and it'll heal even if they have come apart (she didn't even bother checking me after I specifically asked if she or someone else could check them). I was then treated with two lots of antibiotics and my labia was re-stitched by a different Dr at the hospital who was lovely. The first Dr stitched my vagina too superficially to the point it is painful to touch and extremely hard to have sex. I was told by the head Gynae of \_\_\_\_\_ that "some people have the opposite issue where it's too loose and they complain. Unfortunately no one's vagina looks the same after birth. There's nothing wrong and there's nothing that can be done to help." The head gynae's reply about the maltreatment was that "Drs and midwife's just get complacent." The Dr that had re-stitched me then got me to come into the birth suite and agreed there was an issue that I'm best to see a private gynae about so that I could be helped.

The maternity care is horrendous. I kept my story short but there is so much more to add and so many more comments that were made to me and about me that could be considered as malpractice. I made a complaint with the hospital and months later still have not heard a word. I shouldn't have to pay privately for the public hospitals stuff up.