

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 11 July 2023

Partially
Confidential

I was hospitalised in 2016 at [redacted] in Sydney at 29 weeks pregnant with a major placenta praevia. I had experienced a haemorrhage at that time and was admitted as an inpatient for observation. At 33 weeks, I had another haemorrhage and was delivered by cesarean section under general anaesthetic in an emergency situation. I developed severe pre-eclampsia at that time as well. My little baby girl was in neonatal intensive care for 2 weeks and I was in hospital for one week while my blood pressure was stabilised. I had lost 1.5 litres of blood also.

The care I received from staff at the [redacted] the midwives, doctors and my private obstetrician, was amazing. Despite a really challenging clinical situation with potential catastrophic consequences for myself and my baby, I felt safe and knew that everyone in that hospital was committed to ensuring the best outcome for us. The midwives in the ward were not only very responsive in an emergency situation, they cared for me on a daily basis with reassurance and professionalism. The hospital doctors attended quickly when needed and were reassuring and caring, making accurate clinical decisions while waiting for my obstetricians arrival. My obstetrician consulted with me about all decisions and made plans ensuring I understood the potential risks and benefits in timing of delivery. I was visited by the neonatal team before I delivered and they informed us about the course of having a premature baby. During our baby's stay in NICU, we were always informed by the doctors and nurses about what was going on and given time to have our questions and concerns addressed.

It was a really scary time for us a family. Despite having had a traumatic birth, I pretty much have only positive feelings about it. I am very thankful for the care I received and feel very lucky to have had my baby in a country and health system where the outcomes for both of us were very positive. My tiny baby is now a healthy and happy 6 year old and I know we have the skill and care of all the doctors, nurses and midwives who cared for us so expertly at [redacted] to thank for that.