

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 18 July 2023

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Partially  
Confidential

2.3.2019

To whom it may concern

I am writing to advise about my experience giving birth at \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital in the hope that staff can learn from this experience and other women can be treated better in future.

I went into spontaneous labour with my second child around 2:30pm on \_\_\_\_\_.

I called the hospital to advise I thought I was in labour around 4pm and told to keep doing what I was doing.

Around 10pm I called again and was advised to come in whenever I wanted. My husband drove me in and I asked to be examined (4cm dilated) and told to go home until contractions were closer together or I could no longer stand the pain.

Around 1am we returned to the hospital as I could no longer stand the pain. After a long wait at the outside buzzer we entered through the ambulance entry and was told they would advise maternity we were coming.

We made our way up to the birthing unit and found a nurse \_\_\_\_\_ at the nurses station, who proceeded to question us about how we got in, rather than concentrating on the fact that I was in active labour and needed assistance.

\_\_\_\_\_ showed us into a birthing suite where she examined me and found I was fully dilated. I was given some gas and then after a few pushes gave birth. After the birth there was bleeding, the other midwife \_\_\_\_\_ pushed on my stomach to remove the placenta and found there was some retained.

Doctor \_\_\_\_\_ came and asked \_\_\_\_\_ if she thought she got all of the placenta out. Doctor \_\_\_\_\_ said she would try and get it out manually so I didn't have to go into surgery. She then said "Give her the gas" and manually removed the remaining placenta. I was in so much pain and asked her three times to stop before I could feel myself passing out. Doctor \_\_\_\_\_ finally said "I'm out" and I said "so am I", by this stage I was sobbing.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (or Dr \_\_\_\_\_ I can't remember) had said there wasn't much tearing but I could probably have one little stitch to help heal the wound. I was given anaesthetic however was still in pain whilst the stitching was going on. My distress was obvious and I think I was asked if I wanted more anaesthetic however I just asked how much longer and wanted it all to be over.

There was much discussion around my placenta which must have been left out in the corridor at some stage because I could still hear nurses talking about it and why it hadn't been taken for testing.

Once it was all over I was left to sit in my soiled sheets until 8am when I was finally given a shower.

I understand it was an unusually busy night on the ward, with six babies being born and five mothers in labour. I also acknowledge I should have asked to have my sheets changed when the nurses came in to check the drip and ask if I needed anything, however I was repeatedly told I would be helped to have a shower soon.

I did appreciate \_\_\_\_\_ giving me some food and a drink and she did apologise for it being such a tough experience.

Unfortunately this experience made my husband and I think we probably don't want any more children as we don't want to have to go through anything like this again.

I joined the midwifery program upon confirmation of my pregnancy and had a wonderful experience through the program. I had also used the program when my first child was born, and found it was a fantastic and supportive program. Although my first child was much bigger (4610g) the birth experience was much more calm and even though I needed forceps and an episiotomy and stitching, the experience was far better than for the birth of my second child who was smaller at 3220g.

My experience on the wards was also positive. I realise the NSW Health system is understaffed and staff are doing their best when often tired and run off their feet. However, I do believe I should have been given more pain relief and perhaps not have had my placenta manually removed on the delivery table. I also believe the decision to give me more pain relief when stitching should have been made by the doctor and nurse when my distress was obvious. The after-hours entry system to hospital could be improved for women in labour to ensure they aren't standing outside waiting to be let in and then questioned about how they got in once they arrive.

Thank you for taking the time to hear about my experience,

Regards,