

Submission  
No 63

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Miss Jessie Maddison

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Partially  
Confidential

After childbirth at [redacted] in Sydney I required stitches for second degree tearing. After going home, I noticed the stitches came undone, leaving my torn skin essentially hanging. I returned to the hospital immediately but was informed it was not safe to re stitch it due to infection risk. Whilst I always would have been scarred, I perhaps wouldn't have been left with a little flap of skin that hangs at the site if the stitches had been done properly. Surely securing a stitch is a basic skill of an obgyn/gynae doctor. Not once did anyone apologise for the error, just said that sometimes these things happen. Sorry, that's not good enough.

I also noticed bulging after birth and felt I had a prolapse, I mentioned this at my hospital visit during getting the stitch issue seen, and again at another visit, but was simply told at both visits that I needed to wait till my 6 week gp checkup and also that I was overreacting and needed to calm down. That was a terrible thing to say to someone who was clearly distressed by their insides abnormally bulging out of them. I waited till the gp visit and my fears of a prolapse were confirmed. Not once was I referred by hospital to a pelvic floor specialist, or was physio ever mentioned. I only later found out that such specialists were available at the hospital. This aftercare was pretty lacking. I found the midwives and specialist at my two visits to the hospital after birth to be quite dismissive and uncaring. I did however find my home visit midwives through the birth centre much more understanding and considerate with the way they handled the stitch issue and possible prolapse. Felt like I had birthed, been sent home and was no longer their problem.