

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I gave birth to my first daughter just over 6 years ago, in hospital.

I had a normal pregnancy with no complications I was given my expected due date then at my 20 week scan it was moved back by 10 days as my daughter was measuring small despite me being aware of conception date and the date of my last period.

Leading into my original due date and in the days I past my due date I suffered horrible depression. Despite one doctor recommending I be induced a week after my first due date it was denied by the head OB. I was given a date for induction 1 week after my second due date which was 17days past the first date I was given. I went to the hospital only to be told they were too busy and to come back in 2 days I came back again only to be told they were too busy. I didn't end up being induced till 2 weeks past my second due date which was actually 21days past the due date I knew to be accurate. The effect this had on my mental health was very tough and one of the darkest times I have experienced.

After being induced I suffered high temperatures, vomiting and epidural that didn't work. When it came time to push it was suggested my epidural run down so I could feel the pushes after pushing for over 2.5 hours my daughters heart rate started to drop the OB on call was called in by this time I had no epidural and was able to feel everything as an episiotomy was performed and forceps used.

My daughter suffered quite bad bruising to her eye.

I lost a lot of blood one nurse flagged how much blood was lost but the doctor shrugged it off. I was sewn up.

The midwife who was fantastic through the whole process noted she thought a c-section should have been performed. My daughter measured at 4kg I believe if I was induced earlier I would not have had to deliver a baby so large.

To make matter worse the next day one of the midwives flagged that my stitches were not done properly. I was taken back in to the deliver room the next day with local and restitched something that was extremely painful.

I then suffered an infection. I struggled with pain for the following 6 months, incontinence for the next 2 years that was dismissed by doctors as being normal.

It took years of healing before I was ready to have my second daughter I opted for a private OB that respected my wishes as it seems you have little say in the public system and had a wonderful birth. I was induced again this time on my due date and had no complications.

My first experience has left me with no faith in the public health system I was given no say in my birth and post birth was made to feel like it was normal to have pain and incontinence I had to seek out an amazing woman's health doctor and Physio at my expense that finally listened and was able to help. The public sector needs to do better.