

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I gave birth to my son in 2010 at Hospital.

I was in the midwives clinic, so had a different clinician each appointment.

I was 'post dates' and asked to come in on a Thursday evening. I spent hours waiting, and then given prostaglandin. There were no beds available in the hospital, so I was put in the intake bed in the birthing unit. This meant that I was next to women who were coming into hospital to birth.

I was given a bed in the morning on a ward and given another dose of prostalandin as the first one had not worked. I spent the day having multiple people checking my uterus to see if progression was happening. I was given another dose later in the day as nothing had occurred.

In the morning I was woken up early and told that my waters were going to be broken manually. I asked 'so why are we continuing to do this, should be not just organise a c-section as clearly nothing was happening (not even 1cm dilated). I was told by a doctor 'we shall see about that'.

My waters could only be broken with a monitoring prod, so i was then connected to monitoring. I was sent down to the birth unit and about 4 hours after breaking my waters and nothing happening, I was given either oxytocin or pitocin to induce labour. The pain then increased 1000%. I requested and was given the gas and then an epidural.

At one stage i asked the midwife for some assistance for a bowel movement. I was told that it was the baby's head and that i didn't need to go to the toilet! I was finally supported by another midwife after that one finished for the day.

My child's heart rate started to decrease, so i requested to be seen by a doctor as fertility had been an issue.

Within 1/2 an hour of seeing the doctor I was transported for a c-section.

My son was given to my husband and i was left in recovery for 4 hours! Not once was my husband told what had occurred with me and I had no skin to skin with my son. I was the only person in recovery as it was a public holiday.

My experience is no way as bad as other people, I got to go home with a baby. But, I wasn't listened to, I wasn't allowed to continue with pregnancy (my placenta was perfect!) to allow for a natural birth.

Changes have occurred in the health system since I had my child, but more changes have to occur still. Women need to be listened to, we know our bodies!