

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 23 July 2023

Partially
Confidential

My Name is . I gave birth to my first child at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital in January 2020. I experienced a fourth-degree perineal tear during the birth.

During my stay in hospital there was a strong disconnect with communication of information.

In summary,

- I remained covered in remnants of placental expulsion and meconium for nearly 2 days. I was not advised by the midwives when it was considered safe to shower (given injuries and anaesthetics).

- I was transferred to Tumut Hospital late one evening after waiting 5 hours for patient transport. I did not want to go but they made me feel like I had no choice.

- Even with injuries sustained, I was made to walk through the hospital without the assistance of a wheelchair. During that evening I had to prompt the midwife that I

was due for medications to which she responded WWRRH should have sent the medications with me as there was not a doctor present at Tumut to dispense them. After some time, the midwife dispensed a dose of antibiotics only (no analgesia) and there was no discussion of the ongoing pain management or other medications that I had been taking previously.

I felt very unsupported (both with injury care and breastfeeding assistance) and considering I was not receiving any pain management I was of the opinion I would be better cared for at home.

- Five hours post discharge my baby developed recurring haematemesis and was transported via ambulance from Gundagai hospital to WWRRH Paediatric and Adolescence Unit where I spent another 3 nights.

Attached is a complaint letter I sent to the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) chief executive. The letter details my experience within the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital maternity ward and Tumut Hospital in more detail and the effect it had on me and my family. I requested a full investigation.

Some time later I received a phone call from MLHD. We went through the letter I submitted in more detail, it was made clear to me that they were aware of some gaps in the management of my hospital admission and that there was going to be a meeting about it. This is the last I heard from them. I am unaware of any other action taken.