

Submission  
No 92

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Miss Jessie Loader

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During July 2015 i was admitted to Wagga Wagga Base Hospital in the third trimester of my pregnancy due to hypertension. I was scheduled to be induced due to possible pre-eclampsia.

On July 21st 2015 the process to be induced commenced with my waters being broken. I spent the day in the birthing suite with my partner and mother as a support person. Doctors decided to give me an epidural due to high blood pressure. I was not in pain and did not want an epidural, however they talked to me about the risks if i did not.

A short time after, it was hand over time with nurses. I had a student nurse with me while no other trained professional was in the room. I could hear them outside the room in the foyer. The heart monitor on my tummy had started beeping and the student (who stated that she had never been to a birth before) could not find a heart beat, she kept trying and stated that it was not a problem. My partner asked the student to find a nurse to check the heart beat, the student was reluctant to interrupt the shift handover. A few more minutes of not being able to find a heart beat and the student went to find a nurse. A midwife came into the room and also could not find a heartbeat, however no trained professional was monitoring the student beforehand or was available for observations. The midwife pressed the duress alarm and i was rushed to theatre for an emergency c section. As they were rushing my bed down to theatre, the midwife forgot the key to the override on the lifts and then had to run back for key. Once in theatre they started to perform the c section, when it ws discovered that the epidural was not working properly and i was in immense pain when they started performing the c section. They rushed my partner away and put me under general anesthetic. Before i was put asleep i was under the impression that i would be giving birth to a still born. My partner was made to wait in the hallway with no support from hospital staff and when asked if i and the baby would be ok, hospital staff said they were not sure.

Baby was born with apgar of 1 -2 and did not improve until 10 mins. She was extremely close to losing her life.

Baby was eventually placed in neonatal unit and was assisted to breathe for days prior.

I was placed in a room by myself upon getting back to the ward at the end of the hall with no staff around to ask questions, i did not recieve obs for sometime after waking and being wheeled back to the ward. Once located by nurse she stated that i had been put in the wrong room and wheeled to room with oxygen.

I was not assisted to see my baby until 3am the next morning after giving birth at 6pm the night before.

I was extremely traumatised. My babys condition started to improve and i was told i could leave hospital 10 days after birth. I had told hopsital staff i felt extremely depressed with no assistance given. A doctor told me that i did have pre eclampsia and should have been diagnosed before the birth. I was also told by a midwife that i could complain at any time about the birth and was encouraged to.