

Submission
No 124

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

On the 2011 I was admitted to hospital to be induced with my first child. The next day I was given some medication to bring the contractions on. I was told my baby was going to be large and that it may be a difficult birth. I explained that I have severe back pain and that I would need pain relief.

As the birth progressed through the afternoon the contractions got so bad that I was just screaming in pain (mainly in my lower back). I was told to be quiet and not swear and or make screaming sounds. I asked them urgently for an epidural. It was only hours later they came to give me one. The epidural failed and they tried again an hour later. I was still able to walk but they told me it was workingIt didn't work at all! No one had checked the baby and I think she was quite close to coming out.

The pain was so unbearable I was begging and pleading with nurses and doctors to help me but no one would listen, They eventually gave me a shot of pethidine but that did not work either as I was too far along in the birth. I started blacking out and vomiting so they told me they would need to use a suction device to pull the baby out. I had no warning about what that device could do to my insides.

My baby's heartbeat was very faint and she was in distress. They continued with the suction and pulled my daughter out. After that awful experience I felt like I was in shock and I tried to hold the baby but I was shaking and cold. I was then sown up with an episiotomy which was quite large. I was told to get into the shower and wash then I was put in a room with my daughter. I was really distressed and wanted my husband to stay with me but they told him to go home and that he was not allowed to stay with me. I was all alone about one hour after giving birth and I had no idea what to do with the baby or how to feed her. I called the buzzer and asked for some water and help and I was told by a rude nurse that it wasn't a hotel and not to call again.

There was blood all over my bed and I was told that they would have to change it the next day. I didn't get any help or sleep that night as my daughter cried all night. The next day I was so tired and my husband came back in and I demanded that he stay with me that night.

They tried to send me home but I had a fever and was really sick. They kept pushing me to go home so the next morning we were told to leave. I had a fever and so much pain in the episiotomy area. This went on for 12 weeks. I called the hospital saying it was infected in the first week but the antibiotics were not working. I was unable to breastfeed and had to pump and throw the milk away. I gave up in the end as I was on so many medications. In the end I found a doctor in Sydney and she gave me an internal antibiotic which worked straight away.

This could have been resolved had the hospital had listened to me the first week. I then realised I had a bladder and uterine prolapse from the suction device so I have had problems with incontinence and pain ever since. I never had another baby due to the trauma I experienced with Hospital. I relive this horrible scenario in my head too often.