

Submission  
No 139

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I gave birth to my first child in 2019. I had a straight forward low risk pregnancy. I was once I went past 40 weeks I felt increasing pressure to be induced and eventually I agreed to the induction process at 11 days past my due date. I was given a cervical softener cevedil and sent home. I presented back to the hospital that night in labour. My baby was posterior and I was experiencing quite a lot of back pain and discomfort and was vomiting violently from the intensity.

I felt from the moment I arrived at the hospital that I was almost an inconvenience. I felt unsupported by the midwifery staff who would not stay in the room with me to support me and reluctantly came in to offer me pain relief despite my plan to have a natural intervention free birth. After a few hours I ended up agreeing to an epidural, which did not work effectively and ended up causing my baby's heart rate to start dipping. Once it was morning and the obstetric doctor had started for the morning my cervix was checked and I was fully dilated.

There was a student doctor also in attendance and without my informed consent I was subjected to humiliating and uncomfortable frequent vagina examinations by multiple people as they were learning. The doctor told me that I was ready to push so I started doing so with minimal progress as my baby was asynclitic. The doctor told me he would use a vacuum and my baby would be born very quickly. The doctor tried forcefully to pull my baby out but he was stuck and the cap popped off his head. The doctor then told me he was going to use forceps, I remember lots and lots of people rushing in the room as my baby's heart rate was dropping low and the doctor inserted the forceps and started pulling which such force I began screaming for him to stop as I felt my pelvis was being physically torn out of my body. I have flash backs to this day of my body being dragged on the bed while a doctor had metal tools inside me tearing my baby and my organs from my body. The doctor stopped and told

Me I would need an emergency caesarean. I was rushed to the theatre and as my epidural had not been working through this whole period I was put to sleep under a general anaesthetic while my baby was born. Due to this my baby was born without myself conscious or his father able to be present in the room. I woke up an hour later unsure whether my baby was alive and what had happened. I was offered no debrief or explanation and I requested to be discharged the next day as I was unable to trust the hospital to care for me. Still to this day I am filled with grief and anger over what happened to myself and my son all because I was rushed to be induced purely because of a date. My baby and I were healthy and happy and my baby was not ready to be born. He was rushed as was my body and we felt the full cascade of interventions. My body was violated and I was scared for my life and my sons on what should have been the happiest day, birthing my first child.