

Submission  
No 174

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I arrived today hospital in well established labour with my first baby. I was 23 at the time and remember all the doctors and midwives commenting constantly on how young I was and really talking down to me because of my age.

I was given a vaginal examination and told I was 3cm dilated. I requested an epidural but was told I wasn't far along enough yet. This was a huge blow to me because I was experiencing a lot of pain. By the time I walked around to the birth suite, less than an hour later, I felt the urge to push. The midwife immediately yelled at me to stop. She said that I would "swell everything up and the baby won't be able to come out". This was extremely distressing to me as the urge was so strong and there was nothing I could do to stop it. She told me to get on the bed, leaning over the back of the bed. She could see my baby's head. Immediately a buzzer was pressed on the wall and many staff members came in. There was no emergency, I would just be meeting my baby soon so I'm still not sure why she did this. They forced me to lie on my back to give birth, I was given no options or alternatives. I was still begging for an epidural at this point and they laughed at me saying it was too late. My daughter was born about an hour later and I had a 2nd degree tear.

The doctor who stitched me did such a terrible job that I ended up with a large haematoma that felt as though there was a golf ball on my vulva. I couldn't sit down for over a week and the pain was excruciating. I was discharged from the hospital without anyone checking my stitches. The midwife at my home check was appalled at the size of the haematoma and that I hadn't been given adequate pain relief.