

Submission  
No 292

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I decided to give birth in a private hospital after having a traumatic experience with a miscarriage requiring D&C removal in a public hospital. I would like to explain this as it was also traumatic although not technically a birth. I went into \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital at 10 am fasted and ready for surgery. At about 3pm I was moved to a different waiting area in the maternity ward watching pregnant mothers come and go while I was waiting to have mine removed. At 5pm I was in my gown but told I had to wait as they were doing an emergency cesarean of twins. I didn't go into surgery until 9pm. When I came out at 11pm I was told by the two doctors that they were unable to remove everything and I would need to stay overnight but the doctor who would do my second D&C was the most experienced and I would be in good hands. I was released at 5pm the next day. Two weeks later I experience excruciating pain during sex. My GP referred me to a private OB who explained they probably didn't remove everything and I would need to go in for another D&C. A D&C is meant to be the most basic procedure and OB performs and he said unfortunately I probably had very inexperienced doctors in the public hospital. I have since had 3 more miscarriages and a total of 5 D&C procedures.

I gave birth in April 2022 at \_\_\_\_\_ Private Hospital. Overall the staff were caring and looked after me. My trauma was first caused when my epidural disconnected and I kept telling the nurses while pushing that I could feel the contractions. They were quite dismissive and told me to keep pushing. The second part was that I pushed for an hour and a half and towards the end I heard a popping sound in my pelvis. I had a second degree tear requiring stitches which I could feel as no one attended to my epidural. I could also feel the obstetricians hands as he made space for my babies head and later removed the placenta.

The next day I went for an x-ray and the report said I had a 4mm separation in my pelvis and I was in a wheel chair for 4 days. I needed to be wheeled into the shower and my husband washed me. I decided to see a women's physio who helped me to return to exercise 16 weeks post partum.

While my OB is fantastic at delivering babies safely I do not feel like he has provided me with all the information and options to me in my fertility journey. My 6 week check up was more a tick and flick exercise and I didn't really receive any support in my recovery. I feel the hospital system also lets mothers down by not arranging for any sort of post partum check. I also feel very passionately about the fact that D&C procures should not be performed in the maternity ward of the hospital and that there is no support for women to recover from the trauma of miscarriage.