

Submission  
No 342

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 15 August 2023

---

Partially  
Confidential

Hi, I birthed my son at \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital in 2022. After a long labour at home I was sent to the hospital as his head was “stuck” and not progressing.

Ended up birthing him naturally and the team in my birth suit were incredible, however after my labour it went down hill.

I was forced to quickly sign a form to be sent to surgery for a 3rd degree tear. Pulled away from my son straight away, and had no idea what was happening. When I was on the table in theatre about to get an epidural for the surgery a lady ran in and said “STOP, we have an emergency c section get her out”. I was sent to the recovery ward, where there was no hand over and they treated me like a crazy person as they were trying to get me to eat and drink and I kept saying no I haven’t been in surgery yet, they kept persisting saying that I had in fact had surgery. After making a complaint and demanding to see my son and husband, one hour later I was brought back to my son for 10 minutes before I was forced back into surgery. Separated from my son for 7 hours in total, I was brought back to the room at 11pm where my husband was told he had to leave NOW.

Confused, scared and traumatised, a nurse walked in and shoved my son onto my breast, “feed him you’ve been starving him while you’ve been away” she said.

I woke at 5am where they had taken my son without asking to NICU to test him for jaundice. “Where is my son” I demanded them to bring him back.

24 hours had passed and I was not showered or told I was even allowed to move. No help, nothing. Just delivered Panadol and then they would leave.

My friend (a midwife in a different ward) actually came down to shower me after hearing there were insufficient midwives on duty.

After failing to send my sons blood work, they stabbed him 3 times with the needles and then told me I must wait. I demanded to leave. I was treated so poorly and I was shaking with trauma. I knew my midwives from my home birth could visit at home and I wanted that. So we left, against medical advice to be greeted at home with warm and loving arms of our midwives.

The next 4 weeks I dealt with trauma, not once did the hospital check up on us, not once did they have to deal with their actions of what was done to me. 5 weeks post partum it felt like my stitches had come undone, I went to the hospital and was told to wait, so I did until a doctor came to check. “Yep, it’ll be fine and heal eventually”. 1.5 years later and there is still a gaping hole. Even in that visit I was just another number they were trying to get out.

I do not wish my name to be used and I do not want to be a witness at a hearing.