

Submission  
No 415

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I had a baby boy in October 2021, my pregnancy was fine with little complications. On the Monday night my waters broke about 8:30pm by the time I got to [REDACTED] hospital it was about 10pm I was told to wait outside the doors as there was no room for me inside, lucky it wasn't winter because I was completely wet as the water just kept coming and coming. I asked for numerous pads leading into numerous towels because it was that bad still wasn't aloud inside, by about 1am they let me in and checked to make sure it was my waters broken. The next morning I was induced at 9am, by 10am pain went from 0 to 10000 and I kept pushing the buzzer to get an epidural to be told by a student nurse that everyone was busy and they would come soon, hours and hours went by no one checking on me and the student returning everytime I pushed the buzzer. 4:30pm finally the midwife comes in and tells me that I can have an epidural which took about 8 times to get in (was told I had a curved spine which was checked after birth by an osteopath and was told I don't and it was his excuse to why he couldn't get the needle in). Epidural was in and it was all good about 10pm epidural stopped working completely and another anaesthetist came in to redo the epidural, took one time to get in and that lasted about 1 hour before it stopped working. By this time it was just before midnight and I was told to start pushing I had horrendous back pain but told to just keep pushing hours later they told me I would need to have an episiotomy and for them to use vacuum, he was finally out by 4:10am he came out head facing up so explained why I had so much back pain which they never explained my partner was the one that told me his head was facing upwards. Dr pushed on my stomach for what felt like over an hour to get all the blood out which I did lose about 1.5litres, this was due to being on the drip for so long that my uterus didn't close back over.

Dr started stitching me up and I told her numerous times I could feel it and it was hurting me but she kept ignoring me death staring me over the top of her glasses until a midwife stepped in and told her she needs to give me some local anaesthetic.

Later that morning was taken to maternity ward and wasn't shown anything what to do, I was trying to Breast feed and nothing was coming out the next day baby was so unsettled and seemed very hungry I asked the midwife for some formula she said no and left the room my partner followed her asking an additional 6 times for some formula she finally comes back with a consent form for her to artificially feed my baby and a medicine cup with about 5mls of formula. Not even a bottle so I could feed him myself. I continued to try to breast feed but nothing was coming out. The day we were leaving the head midwife came in and gave me and my partner an hour lecture about how I need to go home and breast feed and not to bottle feed as it isn't good. I cried for hours after I left, I went and got a tin of formula and my baby drank 30mls in about 20 seconds I felt horrible he was starving for the last 3 days I was in there. I pumped every day for weeks hoping I would get something as I felt like a horrible mother after being lectured about giving my baby formula and I couldn't get any milk out I just didn't produce any milk. After seeing a paediatrician when my son was about 6 weeks old she told me that they should have known that I wasn't getting any milk because of the large amount of blood loss I had she was horrified that they treated me that way. At about 2 months I noticed that my son would put his right arm on his shoulder all the time and after seeing specialist and physio he was diagnosed with radial nerve palsy which was from the vacuum delivery. I am just very lucky that after months and months of physio his arm did correct itself. I am currently pregnant with my second and I am going private because I had such a traumatic experience.