

Submission
No 420

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I gave birth to my daughter in 2020.

I was forced into an induction that I never wanted.

I was told "my baby could die" even though we just did testing and they told me everything was perfect this was because I was "overdue". The Dr said to my husband "you need to convince her to do this, she's too far along to think rationally"

I was told "we are going to do a vaginal exam now" I was never asked, I was never told the risks, I was never offered a female. He performed a stretch and sweep without my consent (I know it happened as I had consented to one days prior and told my husband I would not allow them to do it again). This left me feeling like I had been raped. I was assaulted by this midwife, I never trusted the hospital again.

The whole induction things were just done to me, nothing was ever explained. No consent was ever asked. I was just a clog in the wheel they were trying to push along. Surprise to no one the "induction failed" and I was forced into a c-section I knew I didn't need. This c-section has left me with lifelong scars and trauma. We are offered no physical therapy, no information on how to heal, we have no post op appointment- does that happen with any other major surgery?! Absolutely not. We are given 2 days of pain relief then told to see our GP if we need more. Mind you this is MAJOR abdominal surgery, you're supposed to take a 5 day old baby, a 5 day post partum woman and sit in a dr surgery to wait for a script for pain relief?! This does not happen in any other department. I was being discharged on a Saturday morning, the Monday was a public holiday, GPs aren't taking on new patients and none are bulk billing I had to BEG the Dr to give me enough pain relief to get me through otherwise I would have to present to an emergency department to be seen to receive pain relief.

Once I physically healed the mental impacts of my first birth started to surface. I requested my medical records when I read them it mentioned "vaginal vault swabbed". Reading this made me realise I had again been sexually assaulted by this hospital and staff.

Now I understand it is an essential part- they do it to make sure there is no haemorrhage. But there is no mention of this when they ask you to sign the consent forms.

You're lying on the operating bed, numb from the spinal, there's a sheet so you can't see what's happening and these predators are doing what ever they want. I had absolutely no idea lying on that bed they would insert something into my vagina. It makes me feel physically ill to know someone has done that to me, because I couldn't see or feel it I had no way of asking them to stop.

It makes me question how safe women are in these hospitals. They just do what ever they want to us when ever they feel like it. They are sexually assaulting women.

This needs to change.. it needs to be on the consent forms where the Drs actually speak to women and explain the procedure- I used to work in the public dental clinics they had to get consent to administer anaesthetic, consent to extract the tooth every step of the way the patient was aware what was happening. Obstetrics and midwifery?! Absolutely none. There is no reason for it. They will come back and say "there is no time". There is always time, I

waited about an hour from the time the dr told me I had to have c-section to the time I left the room, this was not an emergency there was plenty of time.

The only women who know this happens are the ones who read their record, to find out you've been assaulted again from reading your record is the most messed up situation I've ever been in.

The bottom line is NSW obstetricians and midwives are abusing women. They know they are, their supervisors know it's happening, women are being silenced. We need you to do something to help us.