

Submission
No 463

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

So went into hospital Monday arvo to try break my waters and had a planned induction for the next day, Tuesday morning. Had the gel inserted to try soften my cervix. Was told by numerous people that it's very unlikely I'll go into labor and will go ahead with the induction Tuesday. my partner was sent home that night as they still were certain nothing was going to happen because they were so sure I was never going into labour, they gave me a sleeping tablet. I was just about to go to sleep at 12:00am when my waters just broke, I called the midwife to tell her my waters broke and it she made me feel like I was making it up. She Was very blunt with me I didn't feel like I had the support from a midwife I needed. She spoke to me so rudely. I instantly started having intense contractions, there was hardly any breaks between them, they didn't start out Subtle at all it was constant, this is when I knew i was having the baby soon. I was rolling around in the bed in unbearable pain, I asked if my partner could come up to the hospital and the responce i was given was 'no your not in labor' even if I wasn't in labor I still needed my partner there, I was in excruciating pain and having to do it by myself, and that is something no women should have to do by herself especially when I had no help form the midwife she was hardly in the room as she didn't believe I was in labor. The pain was just getting to a whole other level, again I asked for my partner as I just needed his hand to hold, again I was told no he doesn't need to be here, and at this point he was downstairs in the carpark not allowed in. The contractions were so intense and the only pain relief I was offered was morphine, which I I wasn't happy about as I morphine was not in my plan , i ended up having the morphine then was told I'm not allowed to move out of my bed. At this point I was willing to have anything because the pain was so unbearable, with no breaks and again no support as my partner wasn't allowed in or was really checking on me I had to ring the buzzer for her to even come into the room. After I rang the buzzer she finally came in, and told me my partner could come up, this was 2 hours after I asked for him in the room and labouring by myself, when he should of been by my side from the start. When my partner came into the room she said we could go into the birthing suite. The midwife walked straight down to the birthing suite, not standing there to see if I needed anything, no offer of a wheelchair. I stopped at had 3 contractions in that walk, that's how quick my contractions were coming, she still kept walking, at this point I was almost not able to walk and I knew I needed to push. As soon as I got into the suite she didn't ask me what I needed nothing she hardly spoke to me. I told her I feel like I need to go to the toilet, which I knew that means I need to push. She looked me up and down and said well go to the toilet, didn't check to see if the baby was coming out nothing. I then sat down on the toilet and said no I need to push, she then replies saying nah I don't think so. And I demanded I need to push. Rudely she said get up on the bed then. Which I did, and she checked and I was 10cm dilated, this was the first time she had even checked how dilated I was also, so I know deep down I was ready way before that, but I'm just grateful I waited otherwise my partner wouldn't of been there since he wasn't allowed in.

I've heard great things about the midwives at the hospital, and every single midwife I had was amazing besides those hours of labor I was in. I couldn't fault the girls before and after labor. I just feel as though I had no support throughout my whole labour. There was never you are ok or are you ok, or do you need anything nothing. I literally felt like I was alone. i know I got my baby girl but I honestly feel like I've been robbed of a beautiful birth, I'm traumatised and it is still something I think about everyday. I always think what if or this should of happened, and I don't think I'll ever recover properly from it. i am still horrified i laboured by myself without my partner purely because my midwife didn't believe I was in labour. No women should ever be feeling traumatised after labour about the way she was handled and the last of support.