

Submission  
No 549

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I am 36 years old and gave birth to my 2nd child at [REDACTED] public hospital December 2022.

I was lucky to be able to be part of the MGP and had such an incredible level of care through my antenatal appointments. My midwife was so informed and supportive. She made sure I felt listened to and received all the information surrounding all possibilities of my upcoming birth.

Unfortunately she was away when I went into labour and there were no other MGP midwives available so I was under the care of the regular hospital midwife. The difference in care and attitude towards my preferences was astounding. I was constantly asked to comply with continuous fetal monitoring despite acknowledging the risks and declining. I felt like I was being hounded. Whenever I consented to intermittent monitoring I was told I wasn't "allowed" to take it off.

Despite wishing to go at my own pace, with no signs of distress with my baby the midwife and dr kept wanting to intervene saying things like "your labour is stalling" and "you don't want to end up in surgery do you"

I felt bullied into allowing the midwife to break my waters.

When I was in active labour and getting ready to push I had the midwife supervisor in my ear/ so close to my face telling me what I was doing was risky ( declining a canular) . It was so hard to concentrate and focus on birthing my baby.

I consented to a vacuum delivery and was told by the dr we needed to "work together" at one point I repeatedly asked the dr to stop what he was doing, he leaned over my open legs on stirrups and yelled at me that he was not going to stop. Being yelled at by a man with his fingers in your vagina in front of a room full of people was incredibly dehumanising, I felt like I had been assaulted. After the dr has finished stitching the episiotomy I did not expressly consent to he apologised for yelling at me, he then laughed and said it had been "like 2 years" since he had yelled at a woman giving birth.

Months later I am still unable to be intimate with my husband without having horrible flashbacks. I have had to undertake therapy at my own expense in order to deal with birth experience.

Why are Drs yelling at birthing people when they are in labour??? Why don't drs and midwives listen to people giving birth??

Greater access needs to be given to MGP to ensure pregnant people have continuity of care.