

Submission
No 668

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Mrs Amanda Potter

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Partially
Confidential

On the 4th December 2019 - I had my first born son with

Hospital.

During the postnatal care I had a lot of issues with the staff. Every single appointment I waited 2 to 4 hrs for my appointment and each time I seen someone different. This started to give me anxiety as each time they had something new to scare me about. First was 27w a male doctor who just measured my belly said baby was measuring big and could he book me into a c section which sent me into panic stations. Lucky my lovely specialist who did the ultrasound said everything is fine with baby and no need. I also had a tour of the birth space. The midwife said are you bring a dula , I replied with yes and she said I will get a lot of attitude from staff and should reconsider. I also had issues with staff taking blood pressure - my blood pressure was fine but experiencing terrible postnatal care my heart would race causing it to be high yet again no one listened and twice I had to stay 4hrs for a BP test to be told no it's just anxiety (but would never write this on my file)

BIRTH - midwife was tried telling me my mum, husband and dula wasn't allowed in and made me wait. They finally checked me and I was 10cm dilated baby's head coming and arguing with her to let them in , the attitude the midwife gave me made me feel like I was a burden as other women were birthing and was understaffed. I gave birth within the hour of finally giving birth. I was given the Picton vaccination (without consent) when I asked she laughed and said it was for my own good.

I had a tear the size of a pinky nail she said I should get stitched. So the team came in, the nurse gave me the numbing needle which I said ouch ! She laughed and said that shouldn't hurt as I just gave birth. they pressured me into a catheter which I didn't think I needed. They left the catheter in too long and when I quizzed staff 24hrs later she said I should not of even had the catheter and the lady who done the stitches had a lot of complaints from ladies and the job she done was horrific and causing complications.

POST PARTUM- Midwife came to my home. Told me to stop breastfeeding as I had hypoplastic breasts (she never had kids but reassured me she knows her stuff) mentally I went into panic mode. I thought I was killing my baby and how useless I was couldn't produce milk - so ASAP started feeding baby formula. Then my dula came for her visit and said if I can't make milk why could I express a heap of colostrum, she gave me her IBCLC contact who I contacted and within two days my supply dropped dramatically. IBCLC said I DO NOT HAVE HYPOPLASTIC BREASTS ! But my supply is low due to misinformation from the midwife and also my baby had lip tongue and buccal tie. After working with her took 3 months to get my baby of formula top ups FINALLY I did it and breastfeed him until the age of TWO !

on the 31st Dec 2021 I had baby number two - this time had a homebirth booked as I was not going to put myself through the trauma I had with baby number one. Sadly covid hit. I got covid 1.5w before i gave birth and because of the ever changing rules from the government I had to keep tested every 48hrs and waiting in 8hr lines just to test !! Every single PCR test was negative yet I had symptoms. My midwife said she will send hospital my details because if I'm positive on the day she can't attend due to government rules. The hospital called me right away offering some IV treatment they are giving women who are positive with covid late in pregnancy, once again fear mongering started and finally they left me alone. I checked with the head gynaecologist if my husband could attend the birth if I was positive and he advised yes. Birth day and my RAT was still positive so I had to head to hospital. The staff who came and got me on arrival said my husband wasn't allowed in, they escorted me to this tiny room with a tent inside. Told me I must stay on the bed and never remove my mask. I was made to feel like I was the worst threat. I kept begging her to let me off the table and she said no but continue to tell me my baby was in distress. I sat there by myself crying, thinking how the hell can I move to get my baby out, I told her I need to pee (just so I could walk) she held my hand and wouldn't get go. Told me to hurry up once I sat down and escorted me back to the bed and told me to stay put she's waiting on another two midwives. She kept complaining to the room had no medical gear and kept phoning for basic things and it was taking ALONG time. I preyed and preyed for something to happen and the new midwife's finally came in. They let me off the bed and did acupressure and contractions hit hard and fast. I started to cry as my husband wasn't allowed in, the lady said oh no ! He should be here, called him and rushed him in and had baby 15min later. Once he was born again pressured for Picton needle and cut the cord by this time I was just exhausted and agreed. My second born pooped on himself and me she phones for supply's as the room didn't have warm running water (was broken) waited nearly an hour. Was discharged 3 hours after birth. Once home day 3 post partum my baby had a bad UTI caused by the poo that was left and couldn't clean due to covid conditions and rooms with no running water and medical gear. He was on antibiotics from 3 days old to 12months old ! Due to 3rd world country conditions my baby had to suffer, he also had a lot of tests but all concluded UTI was from birth conditions as his bladder/urethra urine system/plumbing was all fine. We had to keep him on antibiotics as he was so young and his body was having trouble fighting the infection. Tried at 6w/3months and 9months with the specialist help to get him off antibiotics and the UTI would come back.

Overall me and my babies didn't deserve this treatment, the system is broken. It's causing emotional trauma and also physical trauma to women. THIS HAS TO CHANGE !!!!!