

Submission
No 746

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Miss Lulu Samuel

Date Received: 10 August 2023

Partially
Confidential

My submission is to state that I have experienced trauma from my birth experience at Hospital in NSW. I was in the middle of labour, I felt my sons head in my vagina with my finger, I was howling at the moon so to speak, and in walks the on call female obstetrician, I could barely look up as I was on all fours on the floor and I could only see upto her knees. She asked me "how do you know that you're in labour", I had refused to be checked and refused to wear any monitoring and refused the canular to be put into my hand.

She then proceeded to tell me that my baby could die if I didn't have all of these things put onto and into me. I asked her to politely leave, she then said again "how do you know that you're in labour" and I replied and asked her to leave my room unless she had anything kind or positive to say she was to leave immediately, she then asked me how did I know that my baby wasn't breech? I replied, whilst having CONTRACTIONS and taking breaths that I just felt his head and to get out. She wasn't going to leave and then the midwife and my partner told her to please leave the room, the midwife said that they had my consent not to use constant monitoring bands and no checks and no canular.

She eventually left and I carried on labouring and was very soon to meet my son. The contractions stopped coming so regularly after that and I was asked to get up on the bed to check for a "cervical lip" to what I now know is not such a thing. The midwife checked and there wasn't anything there of course, I was tired, I felt intuitively that me, my body and baby just needed a moment and I said that to everyone in the room. I was now stuck on the bed on my back and my contractions had slowed a lot, I could not get back onto the floor where I originally was as his head was so low and almost out, I stayed on the bed not sure of what to do and tired.

Within 14 minutes I was offered an episiotomy. I was tired and said yes, the next contraction came and my son flew out. I was going to write a strong email to the hospital about the horrendous bullying and questioning and scare tactics of the obstetrician, telling me that my baby could die at any moment, but of course a new baby takes up all of your time and it's the most beautiful experience given. I have wondered for 6yrs now "What if she hadn't come in...what if I hadn't of had that episiotomy" there are a lot of "what ifs"

I urge you to hear all of these submissions and MAKE CHANGES in the hospitals and birthing spaces. Change in the world comes from how we birth, how these children are given the best, purest start to life and not born experiencing trauma to take out into the world.