

Submission  
No 904

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I gave birth to my second daughter in March 2018 at the . My submission is about my pregnancy and birth experience.

I was diagnosed with gestational diabetes during this pregnancy. I completed the glucose blood test and heard nothing about my results for a significant amount of time until out of the blue I received a call to say that they had missed my test results and I actually had gestational diabetes and I now had to transfer my care from the midwife team to Hospital gestational diabetes clinic. I never saw the same midwife/doctor twice during my following care and even had doctors not realising I had gestational diabetes despite the fact that I had to attend the specific gestational diabetes clinic on a particular day.

Due to my gestational diabetes, I was induced at Hospital maternity ward in the morning. I was not allowed to go home after this and was admitted to another ward in the hospital (not a maternity ward) to be monitored overnight. I was told that it was unlikely I would go into labour during that day or the night. A couple of nurses even told me to wait until morning to go into labour so that the maternity ward would take over care again. At some point during the night, I started to have contractions. I was told that I was not in active labour yet (not sure if this is the right term for this but this is what I will refer to it as during this submission) and was given a heat pack to help with the pain. I was hooked up to a baby heart rate monitor which consistently failed to work and detect a heart rate. None of the nurses were concerned about this or thought that I was in active labour yet. During this time, I was in a room with several other people and I would muffle my groans during my contractions in my pillow. At one point I got up to go to the bathroom and a nurse went with me, during my walk to the bathroom I was bent over double in pain during my contraction. Upon returning to my bed, she gave me a dose of panadeine fort. Several minutes later I vomited this back up. I called for a nurse and told her I had just vomited. The nurse then said that she would examine me to see how dilated I was. She didn't say anything to me but promptly went and got another nurse who also examined me and then all of a sudden, I was being wheeled out of the ward and being told I was being taken up to the maternity/birthing suites and that they would ring my husband.

On the way up to the maternity ward I told the nurses I needed to push but I was told to wait until I was upstairs on the maternity ward. When I arrived at the maternity ward there were nurses rushing to prepare a birthing suite for me. All this occurred within 13 minutes. My husband took 10 minutes to drive to the hospital from our house and he completely missed the birth of our second daughter. I laboured completely alone without any comforting words or support. I was not given the option of any pain relief.

The nurses all thought it was a great laugh and relief that I made it to the maternity ward to give birth. I was told later during the day that I had been lucky to make it to the maternity ward as a second mother had given birth on a normal ward as they didn't realise, she was also in labour.

My husband and I had organised for the collection of our daughters cord blood to be stored. This required us to call the organisation when I went into active labour to have someone attend the hospital to collect this sample. We were not able to go through with this as the nurses on the normal ward had not realised that I was in active labour.

I have thought about writing a letter to the hospital numerous times since the birth of my daughter but I have never followed through with this. I have always regretted not raising my story in a hope that other mother's do not have to go through a similar experience and labour completely alone without any comfort or assistance. Despite it being over 5 years since the birth of my daughter I still get angry

when I think about my experience. I am also so sad that my husband had to miss the birth of his second daughter.

I would like my submission to be published without my name.

I am happy to give evidence at a hearing.