

Submission
No 913

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 4 August 2023

Partially
Confidential

To Whom It May Concern

My name is _____, I live in _____, _____. I am 40-years and have a 13-year-old.

I birthed at _____ Hospital in 2009. I sent in a complaint some weeks after the birth to share my experience and ensure women in the future could have an empowered birthing experience.

Prior to the birth no questions were asked about my medical history and if I had experienced any traumas. I feel this needs to be part of the initial assessment process for public and private hospitals. I found that this is of high importance for a birthing woman and will ensure that her care is respectful, have informed consent, asked questions and ensured she isn't at risk of re-trauma.

A vaginal examination procedure was done without informed consent or sufficient evidence-base information. I was told that this had to be done.

I was also placed in stirrups and did not receive informed consent for the use of these either.

I also asked the midwife to call my mum for support. She instead made degrading comments to these needs and refused to call until some hours had passed.

I made a written complaint after the birth. I also made recommendations, that in future it is really important for the collection of more information about a women's history, especially any traumas.

I received a written letter of apology from _____ Hospital and they said they will ensure women in the future are asked more questions about their history.

I wish all women to be empowered in the birthing process.

Regards