

Submission
No 967

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Mr Andrew Helin

Date Received: 13 August 2023

Partially
Confidential

Hi,
My name is Andrew Helin, from NSW, I'm 42 years old,

These events occurred at the new Private Hospital from April 11th onwards 2019.

As a husband of a wife who was almost killed by the private hospital system I'll give my brief take.

We had been suffering infertility and after 11 years were excited to give birth to our first child.

Waters broke naturally at home we went into the hospital prepped and ready for a natural birth.

However this didn't fit with the obstetricians timeline who had a holiday and recreation to attend. So after my wife not being on a single painkiller, no distress with the baby we were labelled failure to progress after only 15 or so hours after waters broke. We were rushed in for an emergency C section and whisked away and on a operation table within 25 min. No notice, no explanation nothing. Being our first child we kind of felt like we had to go along with it because you don't know the process. And it all happens so fast.

The obstetrician cut my daughter's head with a scalpel. My wife couldn't even see her for the first hour, they left me alone with my daughter on a recovery table for newborns which looked intimidating to a new father so I didn't know I could even pick her up from there or hold her while we waited an hour for mum to finally arrive.

This then turned into a 2 week hospital stay where they bullied my wife and I into formula feeding when she was producing milk of her own. She just needed a hand for a while.

My wife then proceeded to get very sick, I watched her deteriorate to the point of almost death and dismissed by hospital staff and doctors the entire time. The only people that cared were the nurses but we're fairly powerless to escalate things against the ego machine of doctors that run these hospitals.

My wifes stomach and bowel stopped working, she couldn't eat, couldn't care for our newborn, got a fever of 40C, turned yellow and this was all dismissed by her obstetrician as in his exact words "she just needs to do a big dump and she'll be fine". Well in all his godlike university educated wisdom he was wrong. She had a massive hematoma internally from the C section, which fused her bowel to her stomach and she had gone into septic shock. We called a CMO on duty who wanted to run tests but he was dismissed and overruled by our obstetricians ego again and was shut down in front of us and told to wait till morning.

My wife continued to deteriorate and said to me she felt like she wouldn't make the night. She looked it. I knew I had to step up. So I had to get borderline aggressive with staff to be heard and demanded another CMO and a new doctor. (It's not the mood I wanted to enter into having my first daughter but they leave you no choice) They couldn't give me a new doctor apparently but the new CMO on duty came to look at her. He could tell she was sick and attempted to take bloods. He couldn't even get a sample because her blood was clotting inside her and would barely come out. She was shutting down.

They rushed her for a scan and found the hematoma and rushed her for emergency surgery with the same OB. She said goodbye to us thinking she may not come back.

He came to see me afterwards and I said you would of let her go till morning. The only thing his inflated god ego could muster was sometimes patients get it right.

The whole experience led me to a mental breakdown after 2 weeks in hospital.

We did get a hamper from him later. Some dips and wine in a basket should shut them up.

Here's your hospital system.

Thank you. We even had to pay for the privelege.

I recently heard the doctor involved has injured more patients and has been promoted within the private hospital.

That's progress for you.