

Submission  
No 977

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Mrs Sarah Fraser

**Date Received:** 14 August 2023

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Partially  
Confidential

My name is Sarah, I live in \_\_\_\_\_, New south wales and I ahve a 6 month old Daughter.

I received my prenatal care at \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital and through the \_\_\_\_\_, I birthed my daughter at \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital and received care 3 weeks Post Partum at \_\_\_\_\_.

My pregnancy was quite stressful, beginning with placenta previa and then ongoing monitoring.

I was told early that I may need a Caesarean, however when my placenta moved I was then able to potentially birth naturally.

I required Anti-D and the last dose was forgotten and I had to prompt my medical staff to do this when I realised that It wasn't going to be done without me doing so.

At 40 weeks pregnant I asked what the plan was, do I need to book in or whst hospital do I attend. My doctor then went to do an internal examination for a stretch and sweep, said she thought baby was now in the wrong position (because she thought she could feel her bottom) and sent me for an ultrasound which showed baby was still head down. The doctor then thought it was baby's face, sent us to lunch and consulted another doctor. Calling us and told us everything is fine, see her next Monday, that what she could feel was just my closed cervix.

On the Monday (6/2/23) the doctor examined me and said I was 2cm dialted, come back Wednesday morning for an induction. (I was wanting an induction as I was quite concerned because dr had also told me I had a big baby at 38weeks ad she had been concerned about shoulder dystocia)

I arrived Wednesday morning, given antibiotics and shown the hook that will break my waters and explained about the drip- when the doctor examined me she said that I was not at all dilated and that my cervix was closed. They followed this up with the cervadil strip and I stayed in overnight, to have my waters broken in the morning.

By morning I still wasn't dialated. That afternoon, I was sent home and told that \_\_\_\_\_ were unable to take me and that they were waiting for a return call from \_\_\_\_\_

I was very nervous as a first time mum, to not have any plan to where I should do if I went into labor, especially after interventions.

\_\_\_\_\_ Hospital called and told me to come as soon as possible to their day stay unit.

They gave me the Balloon catheter and then moved me to the ward (Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>)

Friday morning I was dilated enough to proceed with induction, but there was no birth suite and unless I went into labor by myself I would have to wait until Saturday.

Saturday morning I was able to continue, my waters were broken and i was on the drip.

I had a epidural about 4hrs into labour.

40 minutes into active labor, the room was filed with doctors and other staff- baby's heart rate was not stable, the midwife explained that it was the monitor moving but the doctor continued.

He asked for my legs to be in the stirrups, explained that he was going to use forceps and an episiotomy to get the baby out.

Once baby was here and on my chest, everything went into chaos- midwives and the doctor were disagreeing on protocol and an emergency was called. (there was a paediatrician who came to ask how I was going)

I was unaware of what was happening, no body had told me or explained what was happening in the moment. I recall the midwives telling the doctor that they were very concerned about the volume of blood and that they have been unable to measure it all as so much was on the floor and that I should

go to theatre. I didn't go to theatre; the doctor did a bimanual compression to stop the bleeding which was successful.

I lost 3.6L of blood, received 4 units of blood, plasma and an iron infusion.

I got an infection while in hospital.

I was released on the Friday to go home.

Everyday I was offered a debrief which was very appreciated.

My platelets were low in blood tests that were done in the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester, I was told to go on iron supplements (but not told why)

3 weeks later I had a bleed at home, attended hospital and they sent me home (to call ambulance if I had any more bleeding) they did offer to keep me in and I mentioned that I was attending hospital for a debrief the next day so they told me to let them know when I see them about the bleed that night.

5am, I had another bleed and called the ambulance- I went to , and then and then . ( Friday morning I was told that I would need a D&C, they wanted to get another opinion on the Monday before doing this) I spent a further week in hospital following this. I lost a further 800ml during the procedure, an estimate of 2500ml across my secondary Haemorrhage.

I feel that I was not fully informed of risks, wasn't kept informed through the emergency and I was exposed to further stressors with the arguments.

I also feel that there was a level of negligence through many parts of my pregnancy, birth and post-partum experience.

I am still in the process of unpacking this, I did appreciate a debrief my and but unfortunately although I requested one from this has not been followed through.

I am grieving what I thought would be a happy and special moment and still can't understand it fully. I'm nervous to trust medical professionals and it has impacted my mental health.