

Submission  
No 1082

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

In January 2014 with the support of my mother & husband I gave birth to our first born son at our local hospital in regional NSW.

What was meant to be the joyous occasion of our sons birth turned into a tragedy that will have a life long impact on myself & my extended family.

In the lead up to birth, during birth & after the birth I was subjected to disrespectful care & overall negligence from the obstetrician, registrar, midwives, and nursing staff which resulted in our sons preventable death.

Vital information was withheld from us including; our sons estimated weight, lack of amniotic fluid, the CTG turning pathological during my labor, the fact that the oxytocin drip was being administered through my iv up until they took me into have an emergency c-section (which was long after they had lost my sons heart beat) my placenta was misplaced during my c-section & was not tested adequately.

My son was born with an apgar score of 1 & put onto life support shortly after his delivery. Both my son & I were individually transferred to the nearest critical care hospital at the time. I was later informed that there was a dispute involving the nursing staff, midwives and the obstetricians that led to a hostile and dangerous birthing situation at our local hospital.

Due to the traumatic birth & subsequent death of our son, I had a breakdown one week after his funeral. This led to me being diagnosed with PTSD & prescribed medication. I am currently detoxing from that medication & I strongly believe that I would not be on this medication if I had not suffered this birth trauma.

Birth trauma has impacted my physical health as my next pregnancy was full of anxious encounters. I believe the stress/trauma of my first birth experience ultimately resulted in the premature birth of our youngest son. My mental health, my marriage & my ability to be a functioning member of society as well as my trust in the health care system have all suffered due to birth trauma. Birth trauma will have lifelong consequences for myself, my husband, and my immediate family.

We have taken our case to the Health Care Complaints Commission of NSW, the Medical Council of NSW & an RCA was done at this time.

What was and still is the most painful and traumatic outcome of this experience is not only the fact that we will never get our son back & the years lost to trauma. It is the lack of accountability of the relevant obstetrician, that up until this day that person has not acknowledged their role in the death of my son. This Ob was taken to the Medical Board of New South Wales and was not able to produce any documentation of my pre-natal consultations.

At a time when I should have felt cared for & supported, I felt anything but that. I was left feeling betrayed, alone, ashamed, let down & violated by our health care system.

If we could recommend anything to prevent birth trauma and improve care, it would be for obstetricians, registrars, nursing & midwifery staff to be transparent and respectful to those they have in their care and be honest in their actions. It would also be to hold the relevant senior obstetrician, senior nursing staff and other senior relevant staff accountable for their actions that result in traumatic births.

For these actions to be punishable in the court of law if the staff are found to have gone against practice policy & procedures therefore resulting in serious bodily harm or death of a patient.

We also recommend that the Medical Council of NSW be more transparent with their findings against medical practitioners & allow the complainants access to the relevant findings against the practitioners.