Submission No 1101

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

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Partially Confidential

My first labour was long and after 28hours and being told I was ONLY at 4cm dilated plus

- over 8 cervical checks,
- morphine given to <u>slow labour down</u> my labour because the midwives said, "other women in the birthing word were more progressed than I was and to they needed be with them over me" (quote).
- The obstetrician **AGRESSIVELY shoved her hand inside my vagina** I felt like my baby was going to come out of my mouth.
- Even though I had an epidural I could still feel the force of her shoving and pushing her hand inside my vagina.
- I was **fear mongered** into a caesarean because my baby was too big, too high in the uterus, my cervix is only at 4cm, I would tear and be given an episiotomy plus forceps and most likely my baby would still get stuck as my baby was too BIG to come out my vagina, so I end up with my first caesarean.
- After being fear mongered without my husband in the room with me about how my baby was too big the obstetrician said so shall we do your caesarean now or in 4hours as I have another patient waking to get his appendix out......
- My baby girl was born 8pounds 35cm head (NOT A BIG BABY)

There was no post op care given and I had such pain in my abdomen for 16months after the birth. Doctors would say "what do you expect you had a c-section"

My Second baby I was told it is protocol if I have not change in dilation after 10hrs of labour I have to have a c-section. Unfortunately, after 10hrs of hospital labour and midwifes telling me now you have had an epidural I do not know what position to put you in, I had another c-section.

When I became pregnant with our 3rd baby, I know the local hospital would not take me on as a client as it is only a level 4 hospital. My only option was a caesarean at the local hospital or travel 2 hours through rural towns to get to .

- After a registrar general practitioner told me I was fat and should only eat Carrot sticks and hard-boiled eggs during my pregnancy to not gain any more weight during my pregnancy
- 2 obstetricians told me I was obese as my BMI was border line.
- An obstetrician from Hospital told me over the phone when I was approximately 25weeks pregnant "I could be walking around with a uterine scar abruption already and when I go into labour the abruption may tear even more and me or my baby could die".
- I was told my 3 obstetricians that I have a cervix that just does not open.

• A new obstetrician started working at the local rural hospital by this time (2022) and he looked at my medical notes and said to me that I should have NEVER had a csection and most definitely had a second c-section. All I needed was time.

Because of the lack of support from doctors and hospitals not able to take me on as client as I wanted a VBA2C, I went on to FREE BIRTH my baby at home (no midwife, no doctor and no hospital care)

3 days after I had my 3rd baby at home with no medical care I called the local hospital to see if I could come in for a baby and mother check-up I was told by the midwife on the phone (no that is a job for your general practitioner now)

** The lack of care is disgusting! Also, to get in to see a general practitioner on the is over 1 week wait.