

Submission
No 1136

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Parliamentary Inquiry into Birth Trauma

I gave birth to my daughter in 2018 at _____ Hospital. It is too painful for me to recount the whole story; however, I can say the treatment I received both during labour and after the birth of our baby left my husband and I with severe, long-term psychological impacts. The 'care' I received was inhumane and abusive and I will never forget how I was treated in my most vulnerable state. My support persons (including my husband and mother-in-law) were also left traumatised by witnessing what happened to me. To this day, the impacts of the experience have affected every part of my life, including my sense of self-worth and mental well-being, my relationships, and my parenting.

Please note, the Honourable Mr Brad Hazzard did intervene in our behalf regarding the outrageous treatment we received after the birth of our daughter; however, we were left so traumatised that we never had the courage to form an official complaint or take legal action against the hospital (which we were advised to do) regarding the inhumane 'care' we faced during the labour and birth itself.

I am confident that the chance of this happening to me would have been drastically reduced, if I had access to continuity of care through a midwifery group practice (MGP) model. It is unacceptable in a developed nation like Australia, that this is not available to all women. From my experience and all the research I have done since, it is my belief that **continuity of care (particularly through MGP for normal risk women) is the only humane system of care for birthing women. Importantly, this should also include the option of publicly funded homebirth care in most instances.** In my home country of Canada, this is considered standard care and it is also true of many other developed countries around the world. As far as I am concerned, this is not just a women's rights issue, this is a human rights issue.

No woman or family should ever experience what my family and I did.

Thank you for reading my submission.