

Submission
No 1025

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

As a birth doula I have debriefed two hospitalised births with my clients where trauma occurred. Both private patients with OBs in Sydney, NSW.

Birth one:

- Told she would have a big baby and forced into an induction
- She birthed her baby but was left on the table bleeding out. No one came to check on her. 3 hours later she had lost significant amount of blood. Without any anaesthetic the OB shoved her hand in her vagina and went to pull out retained placenta. No consent given or information about the procedure. Usually this type of procedure GA is used as it is highly invasive and painful. She sustained PTSD from the procedure.
- When she went to the OB to discuss and debrief the OB said she should be thankful as she saved her life. She didn't give any space for her to be seen, heard, or know the pain she went through. She felt she couldn't say anything as 'at least her baby was alive'.

Birth two:

- Threatened with big baby and forced into induction
- Told she needed an induction as baby would be too big for her
- The induction didn't work as she was failure to progress
- She then had an emergency C section
- The OB knew she had previous anxiety yet when she had an anxiety attack during labour she kept pushing her that she wasn't progressing which has had significant impact on her and led to PPA.