

**Submission
No 1296**

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Mrs Katelyn Spear

Date Received: 9 August 2023

I had a scheduled c-section due to a breech presenting baby which my doctor tried to cancel when I was already in the operating theatre.

My doctor yelled at me for being emotional when I cried. He continued to yell at me after his superior told him to proceed with the csection. I was yelled at even while the anaesthetist was administering my spinal block.

Then due to covid it took 5 hours for me to be moved from recovery to the postnatal ward. During this time I had no access to my baby.

At 5am the next morning my child was rushed to a Sydney hospital due to an injury from birth that had gone unnoticed. My hospital didn't have a paediatric surgery set up, however I was told I was unable to be transferred to stay with him. I had nurses enter my room during the day and ask where my baby was which added to my trauma.

On top of this I was belittled by the "lactation consultant" for struggling to breastfeed and pump due to the time my child and I were separated.

I have a panic attack any time I enter the hospital now and I'm terrified of having a 2nd child and needing to go to this hospital for care.