

**Submission
No 1298**

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Miss Tracey Gietz

Date Received: 8 August 2023

When I was a Midwifery Student in 2019 I was a witness to what I felt was obstetric violence.

On one occasion I was supporting a woman labouring physiologically. She was happy being up out of the bed. Next minute the Midwife comes in and demands she gets onto the bed to birth her baby on her back. When the baby was about to be born the Midwife was getting ready to cut an episiotomy. She had said nothing to the woman about this. I then said to the Midwife was she going to let the woman know what she was intending to do. She then told the woman she was going to cut an episiotomy. She did not ask. There was no indication to cut an episiotomy. The woman had had an episiotomy for her previous birth and so apparently this was why it was happening again. This is not an indication to cut an episiotomy. So the woman seemed to give her consent even though I feel this was not an informed decision and so how can consent be obtained. I'm not sure how the woman felt about this experience but it felt traumatic for me to witness. I just couldn't believe what she was about to do and not even talk to the woman about it. It was disgusting really.