

**Submission
No 1260**

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Mrs Jessica Cuneo

Date Received: 10 August 2023

I am a registered midwife who no longer works regularly within the hospital system due to the constant coercion, bullying, scare tactics and belittling of women throughout pregnancy, birth and postnatally. I chose to birth my babies at home due to not wanting to step foot in a place I worked, knowing full well what happens unnecessarily. I have seen vaginal examinations done with the women screaming stop and not listened to, I have seen countless procedures done without consent, I have seen episiotomies done without consent, without epidural, without anaesthetic, without a contraction. I have seen emergencies created due to the unnecessary intervention and lack of patience resulting in severe perineal tearing. I have submitted IIMS within the hospital against doctors with nothing happening for their actions. Our system fails women, babies and families constantly. I refuse to be apart of it now and advocate strongly for education, advocacy and homebirth.