

Submission
No 1281

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Mrs Alisi Fua
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Partially
Confidential

My first birth at hospital was horrific. I attended all the birth classes and had practiced at home but at the time of the birth, the midwives ignored all my request to have an active labour and put me in sterups. I felt scared and vulnerable. I felt as if all my preparation was useless and I had to listen to what I was being told and they told me I was risking my unborn child. I also specifically requested no student midwives as it was my first birth but this was also ignored and was given a student who was not confident. This resulted in pushing for too long and a second degree tear that took 23 stitches close. I was also given no direction to how to take care of the stitches after birth. While getting stitched up, the doctor doing the stitches kept making comments about how bad the tear was and how tired she was despite me literally sobbing and holding my baby sucking down as much gas as possible to help with the pain. The whole experience was horrific and impacted my pregnancies after.