

Submission
No 1282

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Mr Luke Johnson

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Partially
Confidential

I am a father to five children, aged between 13 yrs and 8 months. It is no exaggeration to say that the most difficult periods I've endured as a parent all relate to the treatment my wife and I were subjected to during and after the birth of our children at Hospital. From an unnecessary c-section birth we were pressured into accepting to a paediatrician who threatened to call child welfare on us because we didn't wish for your newborn to be given antibiotics for purely precautionary reasons (and no, we're not anti-vaxers...), these experiences took an enormous emotional toll on us. Just thinking about it now makes me tired and angry. The best thing I can say about the care we received at this hospital is that it inspired us to opt for a midwife-assisted home birth with our last child, which, by contrast, was one of the most wonderful experiences parenthood has thrown my way. The hospital system would benefit greatly from following the lead of these home-birthing midwives, who are free to act in the best interests of mother and child (as opposed to the hospital's legal apparatus).