

Submission  
No 1321

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Ms Melissa Bouffler

**Date Received:** 7 August 2023

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Partially  
Confidential

I had my baby at \_\_\_\_\_ in 21 June 2023.

When I presented at the hospital and told I wasn't far enough along I got out on a ward where midwife's ignored me and said they wouldn't be checking me for hours.

I laboured by myself all night with no visits.

The next morning I was 5cm and allowed back down to north suites where I laboured for 5 more hours.

During the last 60 minutes I was told I needed to push immediately due to my Babys heart rate reducing. Within seconds a medical team we're brought in and I was give an episiotomy without explanation and forceps.

I was left with what I was told a 3c tear but I believe to be worse as I am still incintinebt 3 years on.

I had to be rushed immediately to survey to repair and the damage and trauma for me in that vulnerable time still haunts me to this day.

Yes I am glad that my baby is a live and well.

But I do not believe such aggressive and immediate intervention was necessary.

Mothers and the mental health of mothers should be considered at all times throughout the birth space.

The care of midwife's changes so dramatically between peers.

The risk appetite of doctors seems to be so slim.

it feels a alive baby is "best outcome" but why is that the bar. That is a low bar. That should be the bare minimum.

Especially for new mums who don't know how to navigate the medical system.

Birthng women deserve to be informed about each step of their birth and consent needs to be more than just a frightened nod.