

**Submission  
No 1322**

## **INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA**

**Name:** Mrs Jennifer Greed

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As a midwife of 40 years I have stood witness to the increasing medicalisation of birth , the erosion of women's rights , intervention rates beyond belief and subsequent cascade of interventions that follows , how can 1 in every 3 women NEED induction of labour and 1 in 3 women NEED caesarian section , I have been witness to the brutality of medical colleagues and at times midwifery colleagues , women's bodies traumatised and women's rights eroded in the name of " well at least you have a healthy baby " .

As a midwife we have become the bottom line of blame , I could give countless examples of midwives being blamed for the decisions of medical officers, often very senior ones , when things go wrong , a culture of " blame the Midwife " pervades every area of obstetric practice in NSW . I have felt complicit in the assault of women i have cared for , powerless to stop what was happening, I am totally overwhelmed by the vicarious trauma I have suffered over 40 years , I have to bargain with myself to go to work every shift , I work in a culture of fear , overcome by increasing paperwork and computer work that takes me away from being with woman , bound by policy that is meant to be one size fits all and so risk adverse that women's choices and decisions are taken from them before they even begin their birth journey . I suffer from repeated nightmares, I could speak for hours of my experiences. When will we realise that we are destroying normal birth .