

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 14 August 2023

Partially
Confidential

I supported a woman birthing at _____ Public Hospital as a doula in 2020. The woman educated herself about the benefits versus risks of having an induction. It was her first baby. She declined induction and because of this and the fact she was 42 weeks pregnant, she was told she had to have a meeting with the team of doctors.

I attended this meeting as her emotional support person. One of the doctors told her that she was choosing between the birth she wanted and her baby's life. This statement caused the woman great distress and made her feel unsafe to go to the hospital for the suggested daily CTG.

She told the doctor she'd read a lot of research about induction and that she understood all the risks and that she did not want to be induced. The doctor was openly disapproving of her choice and told her that he hoped her baby lived so that she wouldn't feel guilty.

The woman went on to have a traumatic birth fuelled by deep mistrust of the maternity system given her antenatal experiences.