INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Ms Imogen Clothier

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Partially
Confidential

My name is Imogen, I live in   am 30 years old and gave birth in February 2023 at
                     Hospital. Unfortunately, due to living regionally I was unable to access continuity of
care as   Hospital does not currently have a midwifery group practice (MGP) program.
I believe my birth outcomes and my baby's would have been much more positive if we had of had
a known, trusted care provider through an MGP program.

I laboured for 8 hours at the hospital and found it very disheartening having my midwife change
at the end of her shift 4 hours into my labour. I felt very vulnerable and like I couldn't trust the
midwife who took over and was present for the birth of my son. It felt like she didn't trust my
baby, my body and physiological birth like I did. She engaged in coached pushing, encouraged me
to push not on a contraction and was very hands on during the pushing phase. I believe this
resulted in me sustaining a third degree tear, two potential prolapses and my son developing
respiratory distress and having to be helicoptered by NETS to   hospital.

My experiences have made me consider homebirth for any future pregnancy as this is currently
the only way I can be sure to have continuity of care and a known, trusted midwife at the birth of
my baby. I would however way prefer to give birth in a hospital that has additional medical
equipment in the event it is needed. It is so important that women are trusted and respected during
pregnancy and birth and have continuity of care. My birth injuries (tear and prolapse) have
impacted my physical and mental health and meant I could not walk further than 500m for 3
months post birth.

Birth can be such an empowering experience, women in regional areas deserve access to gold
standard maternity care. Please provide midwifery group practice at   Hospital and
regional hospitals around the state so more women can have continuity of care and better, more
positive birth outcomes.