

**Submission  
No 1151**

## **INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA**

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My birth with my first born was harrowing.

I was put under so much pressure to have an induction by the hospital staff and my then midwife to have an induction. I resisted the pressure for 12 days before the fear the midwife was instilling on me got to me and I forcefully went ahead with the induction. During it, I was told to 'push' when I didn't feel the need to. My waters were broken by my midwife. I endured 9.5 hours of pain, examinations and medical intervention before they took me to theatre and performed medical procedures on me to 'get my baby out'. The doctor waved the form in my face 'sign it, you need to sign, now, your baby is at severe risk, sign it' while I was in agony and crying in pain and in the birthing suite. She had a smile on her face the whole time while she was telling me to sign that piece of paper. I signed, not knowing any better. Nobody comforted me or explained what was about to happen to me. Once I had signed, she didn't take me to theatre straight away, so made herself a cup of tea, then after awhile casually told the staff she was ready and to bring me in.

I was taken to a theatre room. An episiotomy was performed and my baby was reeled out of my vagina with forceps. The cord was cut immediately without my consent.

I was crying and the doctor who did this all was laughing and joking with theatre staff during it saying insensitive comments the entire time.

Once I was stitched she called upon my mother in law to come and have a look - a look at my vagina to make sure she (the doctor) had done a 'good job'. I was mortified my mother in law was looking at my vagina in that state when my own mother was outside waiting. Regardless, nobody should have been brought in to check if my vagina was stitched up well.

Later, I was pressured to give my new born baby formula because his blood sugar levels were low. This battle with the hospital and midwife staff lasted days with them wanting him to be given formula. I resisted. He was breastfeeding very well and my natural instinct was telling me no, he is well. Which he was.

I was and still am extremely traumatised by the birth of him and how it all unfolded.