

Submission  
No 1155

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Mrs Jennifer Hume

**Date Received:** 13 August 2023

---

Partially  
Confidential

My daughter moved to \_\_\_\_\_, NSW just prior to the birth of her 1st child in May, 2016. After learning there was no birthing facility in the area she opted to drive to \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital.

I attended the birth along with my son in law.

2 midwives were in attendance when my daughter was delivering, 1 was actively assisting my daughter who was on her hands and knees the other one was sitting in the corner looking at her phone.

The head was delivered, the next contraction had the attendant midwife reach towards the red emergency call button, she hesitated and the other midwife jumped up, took in the situation and grabbed hold of my daughters left leg moving it as far forward as possible, yelling at her “ you need to push with all your strength, don’t stop, push as hard as you possibly can. After some minutes the baby was delivered. My daughter was covered in blood, but the midwives bustled about, looking worried, helping deliver the placenta. I knew that something wasn’t right but left shortly after with the other grandparents to drive back to \_\_\_\_\_.

About 20 minutes later we received a call to say a doctor had been called in from \_\_\_\_\_ and my daughter would be going to theatre to have a repair of a 3C tear under GA.

After a few days she was discharged, no explanation was given to her about what happened. She was not given a blood transfusion, she was incredibly weak, pale and often on the verge of passing out. Eventually she traveled to Sydney for iron infusions but her health didn’t improve to pre birth state.

It took 4 years of many doctors visits, specialists, multiple blood tests, misdiagnosis which resulted in unnecessary surgery before finally getting the answer which was an improperly diagnosed and poorly repaired 4C tear which had caused a recto vaginal fistula leading a large pelvic abscess.

The next year was spent having surgery every 6 weeks to repair the problem as much as possible.

My submission is that mothers need to be informed if the hospital they have chosen to give birth in is often without a doctor on the premises!

That all mothers are given a copy of their birth notes on discharge

That doctors and midwives are open and honest about events without fear of judgement so mothers can seek ongoing care as soon as possible.

Had my daughter known there wasn’t a doctor she wouldn’t have given birth at \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital!

Jennifer Hume.