

Submission
No 1168

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Mrs Merilee Ivanov

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Partially
Confidential

My name is Merilee and I live in . I am 40 years old and my children are 13 and 11. I had both of my children at Public Hospital. For my first child I was under the care of the MGP and it ended in an emergency Caesarean after 27 hours labour. For my second child I was not permitted to enter the MGP because I wanted to see if I would have a vaginal birth. I attended the antenatal clinics at Hospital during my second pregnancy, seeing random midwives. When I went in to labour with my second child I was attended by the midwives on staff in the birthing unit. I felt like my midwife in the birthing unit was just brushing off my concerns and did not keep me updated, like what phase of labour I was in and that everything was progressing normally. Given my history this would have all been very reassuring. I got an epidural when I requested it and immediately after the epidural I measured 9 cm. I was then left for 4 hours before being checked again. At that point the epidural was turned down and I started to push. I pushed for around an hour and half before the midwife said the baby was about to come. She got my husband to push the buzzer for help while she turned away from me to ready something. While her back was turned I lost control (don't really remember exactly what happened) and pushed my baby out head and body all at once. My daughter flipped on to the bed and skinned her nose and I suffered a third degree tear from her not being positioned properly on her way out. I also started hemorrhaging and had the registrar attempt to manually express fragments from my uterus and dig around inside of me. This may have been explained to me but I don't remember. I was rushed to the OR to get stitched up and to stop the bleeding. I had to spend 2 hours in recovery after without my baby because I had no urine output and my blood pressure was very low. I also required 3 units of blood to get my haemoglobin up. I had very minimal input and follow up from the pelvic floor physio. Around a year after the birth I developed a vaginal prolapse, from weakened pelvic floor muscles from my tear. Despite lots of rehab and strengthening programs I still experience some prolapse symptoms and probably always will.