

Submission
No 1206

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Mrs Sarah Matulewicz

Date Received: 11 August 2023

Partially
Confidential

In NSW I am about to give birth (38 weeks).

What was meant to be a professional experience with a secondary growth scan on 10/8/23 was a horrible experience due to the nature and conduct of the radiographer.

She refused to allow the head of the bed to be raised and forced me to lie completely flat, when that is against protocol for third trimester due to the positioning of bub on the aortic and iliac arteries and oxygen flow to bub; as well as reflux and intense asthma experienced by myself.

She told my husband and I to not talk, do not ask questions and was extremely rude and dismissive before and during the scan, telling me to calm down when I started crying as I had been there waiting for a scan for 7 hours already.

When I tried to subtly shift to restore blood flow to my legs or choke back reflux vomit, she held my legs to the table to prevent me from moving.

I experienced painful Braxton hicks/contractions during the scan and when I asked her for a moment relief from having my stomach being pushed on during the scan, she told me we will just stop because it's too hard to get anything else.

At a time I should have felt supported and respected regardless of how busy she was, I was made to feel like an inconvenience and less of a human when all I was there for were answers regarding the status of an organ in my unborn baby.

This trauma will impact the time leading up to birth, in a time I should be resting and enjoying the final days, I instead have to fill out forms like this one and paperwork to report this conduct. This woman needs further training on management of pregnant women, especially during scans where care with sensitivity and positioning of the mothers needs to be adhered to.