

Submission
No 1279

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I work as a perinatal psychologist and regularly here stories time and time again of women who have felt violated and disrespected during their antenatal, birth and post partum care. Stories have involved women being bullied by medical staff to consent to induction and procedures they did not feel comfortable with; women being man handled during vulnerable moments in labour, and not being afforded opportunity for informed consent.

The physical impact of birth trauma can be significant too. I experienced prolapse following the birth of my daughter resulting in symptoms that impacted on daily functioning, ability to exercise, and at times even faecal incontinence. Despite the prevalence of birth trauma injuries there is limited public funding to support access to physiotherapy which can be costly.