

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 7 August 2023

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Partially  
Confidential

My second birth - again, I was induced due to my son being 10 days late. Due to having a previous cesarean, I needed the balloon catheter as it was the safest option. My drs and midwives continued to pressure me into having another cesarean and said I'd likely end up having another one anyway. After my last experience, I didn't want to go through that again, so I pushed for a VBAC despite all the negativity and statistics being thrown at me. I went into the hospital to have the balloon catheter. I stayed over night. They had blown the balloon up with fluid too much, that it blocked my urethra and I couldn't go to the bathroom for hours. I was prodded at and checked until finally one nurse came in and released some of the fluid. The next morning, I woke up in the hospital alone and I cried. I was so scared everything would happen the same as my first birth. The awful pain of being induced, being forced into another cesarean, feeling helpless. I got to birth unit, and I asked if I could go for a walk after my waters were broken to help things move along more naturally. They denied this and wouldn't let me as it would be inconvenient to the nurses. They broke my waters and instantly started the drip to get contractions going. I pushed through the pain, knowing how bad it was going to get. 4 hours passed and I was about 6cm dilated. They decided to turn up the severity of the drip to move things along faster. At this point, the pain was unbearable. I felt like my previous scar was going to tear open. I screamed and wailed in pain, it was the worst pain I had ever felt in my entire life. I called for the epidural, but my midwife said one was waiting for me (as if they knew it would get to this point) the epidural didn't work for 2 hours and I was still in excruciating pain. Finally it worked and they told me if in 2hrs there was no progress, I'd go to theatre. They then threw a heap of risks of death to myself or my baby if I waited too long. So of course, I complied. They began to wheel me to surgery and my contractions came back, breaking through the epidural. They promised they'd check me once we got into the theatre room. I got in, they put me on the bed and strapped my legs down. I yelled and said I am still having contractions! They then checked me and said I hadn't progressed so they'll go forward with the procedure. I was in caseload this time as I wanted continuity of care and I wanted my baby straight away. Thankfully, my dr was amazing and as soon as they got my son out, he yelled to the nurses to drop the curtain and he handed my son straight to me. We had instant skin to skin and my fiancé got to cut the cord, unlike my first birth. After that, we were not separated and my son and fiancé stayed with me the entire time, which was a far better experience than my first. Although throughout my birth, I didn't feel listened to or heard. I cried a lot going to theatre and did not want to have another cesarean but felt I wasn't given any advice and no other choice in the matter.