

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

In November 2020 I gave birth to my son at [redacted]. I elected to have GP shared care as I was advised that the MGP was "very hard to get into". I had great continuity of care from my GP. I however had an awful experience with [redacted]. I only had 3 appointments with the antenatal clinic at [redacted] (one of them being over the phone).

My 3rd appointment around the time I was 38 weeks I was dumped in day stay without ever receiving a solid reason why I was there. Monitoring showed my baby was in great form and an ultrasound also confirmed everything looked normal. I was told I needed to see a Dr in order to be able to leave, this did not happen until nearly 8hrs after my initial appointment time. I was sat in a birthing suite alone and told by a Dr that he wanted to induce me that night. I declined and asked to go home, I was then told he needed to perform a cervical check first. I felt trapped and like I had no option but accept. I requested a female perform the check, I was advised none was available. After performing the check it was clear my body/cervix was not ready to have my baby yet the Dr still wished to continue with induction. I was made to sign an AMA form in order to leave. Was advised me or my baby could die in the night etc.

I returned the next morning for the tape. I was given a fact sheet about the process. The midwife to inserted the tape was so rough and abrupt.

That night after my husband had left a Dr came to my room to inform me she was going to insert a cooks catheter. I had no idea what this was and was given little information. I asked for my husband to be allowed to return despite visiting hours finishing and he came back.

We were taken to a little room and the dr commenced trying to insert the catheter. I was in so much pain I was offered gas. At one point I could feel the dr working her fingers into my cervix as she said she was trying stretch my cervix which was still closed after the tape earlier in the day. I fainted because of the pain, my husband informed the dr of this and she told him "it's fine/doesn't matter" and continued to keep her fingers in my vagina and cervix. I woke up disorientated and with the realisation someone had their fingers inside my vagina. I have trouble putting into words how this made me feel at the time and continues to make me feel years later. It was completely dehumanising.

The next day I was taken to the birthing suite and given a drip to commence contractions. Once again little to no information was provided. I was also no longer "allowed to eat". After nearly 12 hours of the drip, an epidural, I had an infection and was very unwell, unable to stay awake and my baby was in distress. They asked to put "a little clip on his head" which I later found out was screwed into his scalp where he still has a scar.

I was advised I needed a c-section in the early hours of the morning. I had not had anything to eat in nearly 24hrs and I was exhausted, confused and scared.

When I was being prepped for surgery the anaesthetist was using ice on my face and my stomach. Despite me saying it felt exactly the same I was dismissed. The Dr performing the survey used tweezers on my stomach which I could still feel. The anaesthetist caught sight of my face and realised I could still feel everything. After trying to give me more via my epidural I was advised they could continue but "I might feel some things". I was so panicked and distressed I accepted a general anaesthetic. I woke up in recovery by myself with no idea what had happened to my baby. I finally got to hold him hours later in my room. He was a healthy 3.5kg and no where near the "big baby" I was led to believe I would not be able to birth vaginally.

His first year of life was a blur or PNA and PTSD symptoms. Many therapy sessions later I still find the experience hard to talk about.

Something needs to be done to curb the unnecessary interventions pushed on first time mothers, using scare tactics and fear mongering is so wrong.