

Submission  
No 1363

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 12 August 2023

---

Partially  
Confidential

As a Midwife who has worked within the system for many years I would like to submit my concerns and comments in regards to Maternity Care in the Rural Hospitals

During my many years of nursing in a rural area I have noticed there is a dramatic downturn in the level of care that mothers receive

In my local area once we moved to \_\_\_\_\_ changes were made to the services to \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital which has led to my issues for both the community and the staff especially the Midwives

Mothers were suddenly unable to birth at \_\_\_\_\_, due to the interference of Hospital

\_\_\_\_\_ lost many services which in turn led to the leaving of Drs able to do Births, visiting Specialists stopped attending and there has been no encouragement for Drs to work in Rural areas

Currently we only have one Dr who only offers birth, this has led to an increase in inductions to suit his timeline, eg at 38 weeks, if labour doesn't progress as fast as he would like mothers are taken for an unnecessary LUSCS eg not birthed during business hours Monday to Friday

The lack of care and bullying tactics from this Dr has led to many mothers birthing at other hospitals as they have no confidence in the local Hospital and allowing to have a say in their birth

Many mothers are referred to bigger hospitals for minor issues

Midwives aren't allowed to make educated choices on how mothers birth and there isn't any encouragement for staff to support and encourage mothers in birthing

us midwives would like to offer continuity of care to these mothers offer mother base care and home visiting

Sadly the assistance in the community has decreased as when mothers are sent home early there is no followup putting these mothers further at risk of breastfeeding failure, increase of further trauma and PND

The Child and family Health Staff don't see mothers after birth for weeks and don't refer mothers to other support systems within the town eg Australian Breastfeeding Association

I speak to many mothers in the community who state that they are told to formula feed their babies as the assistance required to support them isn't there from the nurses and these mothers are unaware that there are other support services within the town

Sadly for the mothers and the community of \_\_\_\_\_ and surrounds the local Maternity Services will cease due to the lack of support from the ILGA

This will in turn lead to mothers putting themselves and their babies at risk driving over hour to other hospitals , these roads are often closed due to accidents etc

\_\_\_\_\_ hospitals is in similar situation to us