

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric](#)  
**Subject:** Select Committee on Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric Health Services  
**Date:** Monday, 16 September 2024 9:57:29 PM

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[REDACTED]

Dear Secretary,

I am writing to share my experience of child birth at the Royal Hobart Hospital in [REDACTED], which resulted in significant feelings of distress and anxiety in the short and long term. For context, I had received private antenatal care but was birthing in the public system.

My obstetrician had booked an induction for the birth at 40 weeks due to a number of factors. She had warned me that some midwives are not in support of interventions such as inductions, so I already felt a level of anxiety going in to the hospital, as if my informed and personal decision may be questioned.

My concerns were vindicated at the hospital, where midwives would question and comment on my choice both in front of me and with each other outside my room. Such remarks, often passive aggressive in nature, left me feeling like I was an incompetent mother-to-be who had not made an appropriate choice for herself or her baby.

Throughout my first 48 hours in the hospital, I underwent many internal examinations with different practitioners. The manner in which these were carried out was variable. On some occasions, a lack of consideration for my vulnerability and privacy was at play, with midwives commenting on my physical state without consideration. I did not know that I could refuse the ongoing examinations, and wish that I was made aware of the risks/benefits and given the opportunity to consent.

As I awaited the induction process, I was given multiple timeframes for check-ins and procedures that were significantly delayed with no updates provided. I felt isolated and as though I was an inconvenience to the system.

My waters were broken on my third day in the hospital and I went into labour. During the labour, I was supported by a midwife who had been particularly vocal about her stance on inductions. She went on to comment that I was "running away from the pain" during labour, which led to further feelings of anxiety and vulnerability.

When I sought pain relief during labour, there were significant issues with administration. The care team tried for over an hour to work out why the drug was not coming through the IV cannula, and ultimately there was an issue finding a key to open the machine to remedy the issue. During this time, I experienced feelings of extreme helplessness and did not feel safe.

Following the birth of my child, I was moved to a shared room. During this time, I was given some hands-on "advice" regarding breastfeeding, which involved being attached to a pumping machine with the curtains open in the middle of the night. I was provided with very little explanation as to why this should be done, and felt my privacy had been compromised.

Following this birth experience, I had difficulty discussing or viewing content related to birth and sought psychological support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

