

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric](#)
Subject: Select committee on Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric Health Services in Tasmania.
Date: Tuesday, 10 September 2024 11:31:35 AM

Dear Secretary,

This is my story. My positive birth story. I gave birth on [REDACTED] at Burnie Private hospital (as a public patient) and I couldn't fault any of the staff. The midwives (whose names I have forgotten unfortunately) were incredible. So supportive, very in tune to what I needed and not once made me question myself or my ability to birth my baby. Everything was my own choice, they ensured all choices made were discussed with myself or my husband first and they never made either of us feel inferior or unheard. The doctor took the time to talk my husband through any potential issues when they arose in a non condescending manner and he answered our questions thoroughly. The midwives kept me calm and I felt safe. I was never forced to take pain medication beyond what I chose to use. The midwives asked my permission before they touched me in any way during checks and monitoring of the baby.

I had undiagnosed pre-eclampsia in my previous pregnancy (I lived on the mainland at the time this occurred)which the doctors and midwives at Mersery hospital in Latrobe were made aware of and monitored very closely in this pregnancy and I was can't applauded their professional enough. Thanks to their diligence I was able to avoid having pre-eclampsia the second time round.

My only issue is with the lack of funding for the maternity and birthing units at Burnie. There is not enough beds to accommodate the growing community and as a result, many women are being booked in for inductions (such as myself)or c-sections, and having these cancelled due to lack of beds and room. I was scheduled for an induction due to my age and previous medical history and had this postponed once , almost twice (the doctor refused to postpone it twice) due to this lack of bedding and room availability. The doctor's frustration about this was evident and his hands were clearly tied. They need more funding and more staff and more resources. The community needs this to happen.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]