

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Reproductive, Maternal and Paediatric](#)
Subject: Submission to the inquiry
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The Select Committee,

In [REDACTED] I became pregnant, I went to see my GP, [REDACTED], and asked to be referred to the birth centre as I wanted a home birth. My GP advised me not to have a home birth, that she had worked on a maternity ward and that birth, particularly with a first baby, was not safe & she had seen many terrible things happen in her time in the ward. I didnt want to be responsible for killing my baby of course, so I listened to the trusted professional. (Of which now I know is statistically inaccurate.)

I had a pregnancy & birth overseen by MGP at Launceston General Hospital.

I went over due dates, and was pressured to induce with threat of a dead baby. (Of which I know now, going over due dates the risk is statistically insignificant, and the risk with induction is higher). I fought against induction, but was still pressured into an extremely uncomfortable membrane sweep as the “compromise” I was forced to make. Of course I didnt want to kill my baby.

My contractions started a minute apart & I called the hospital, I was told to take panadol and go to bed. We decided to ignore that and go to the hospital. Once we arrived my MGP midwife sat in a chair, barely spoke and didnt make eye contact. I felt alone and betrayed - she had made it sound like it was going to be great in our appointments - when I needed her she wasnt there.

I was on the clock. Whilst the whole labor was only 9 hours in total, a blonde doctor came in multiple times an hour to hassle us and tell our midwife in front of us, audibly, that we need to start considering some more “help” in the form of syntocinon because it was taking too long to progress. Repeatedly she would give me time limits “I will come back in half an hour, if we havent moved along then consider an epidural or synto.”

3 hours later I caved and agreed to the epidural. Although I had specifically asked them in my birth plan to never hassle me with interventions, my midwife kept saying “If it was my daughter Id suggest she got an epidural.” Which I have since learned is a common work-around to be able to push interventions indirectly.

They had to call someone in from home to do the epidural as a staff member hadn't turned up. No one explained this to me at the time, so I was waiting a long time with everyone saying it would be “soon.” When she arrived she was visibly and audibly angry. She had just finished a shift at the hospital only to be called in again for my epidural. She raged at the midwife about this. She then yelled at me for moving whilst she tried to insert the needle in my back, at this stage I was still having contractions one minute apart so it wasnt really possible to hold still. She snapped about several things, if I spoke she would snap back at me, she just wanted to chat with the midwife about their weekends and complain about other staff whilst I lay on the bed seriously distressed.

Finally the epidural only worked down one side of my body. But now I was stuffed anyway, I couldnt move so I was at the mercy of every disaster and intervention. The CTG monitor on my belly was extremely extremely painful and I kept pulling it off, I could not stand it. I nobody said it was optional (or technically useless according to science). Then pressured

to allow a fetal scalp electrode, because if we dont monitor the baby it could die. It didnt work anyway. By the end of all this messing about they called an emergency saying the fetal heart rate dropped, a tonne of people descended on the room and Dr [REDACTED] got out his forceps. Due to the forceps I sustained a prolapse, a tear, and bladder issues that have lasted 6 years so far. My baby was then hurried away from me, and wheeled away on a table. Nobody explained to me where she went or when I would see her or why she was taken.

I felt absolutely terrible.

An hour later I was wheeled up to the NICU. They had plugged her into antibiotics (without any testing, profilactic antibiotics without consulting myself or my partner). She hadnt required resusc, so Im not sure why they had to take her away "Just a precaution" or "Just to be on the safe side."

When I saw her I didnt feel like she was mine. She could have been anybody's baby.

My stay at the hospital for the next three days was awful. I had a horrible midwife for overnight care. She was snappy, mean and rude.

My baby had tongue ties which the hospital staff had missed (I took her to specialists once outside the hospital) so my nipples were bleeding and blistered for weeks. Whilst still in hospital after the birth, I was crying in my room and called the midwife at 4am because I was in so much pain, and so tired, and so confused and traumatised. The midwife walked in, saw me crying and said "Well crying wont get you anywhere so you can stop that right now." This was basically her attitude towards me about everything for my stay. It was easier (or less heartbreaking) to just not ask for any help.

After I complained about losing any and all feeling in my bladder, they performed a test with dye and ultrasound, and told me it was all fine.

It was not fine and still causes issues 6+ years later. This damage is irreparable.

A week later we had to return to the hospital with an infection (introduced into my uterus undoubtedly by the several people with their hands in my vagina the week before) and stay another 5 days. Again, the bedside manner was awful. I had a drip in my arm which had caused my hand and wrist to bruise and swell up. I had a fever and was extremely unwell.

One of the nurses was kind and put the antibiotic in slowly & told me to ask the other nurses to do it slowly too. I asked another girl as she arrived in the room at 5am "My arm is extremely painful and the injections are excruciating right now, the other nurse does it slowly over 30-60 seconds so it doesnt hurt, can you please do the same?"

She smiled and said yes, then she inserted the needle and injected it within 10 seconds. I was screaming out in pain and was left crying, she said "Its better to just get it over with." And left.

Later I learned that they just should have reinserted the catheter instead of continuing to use one that had made my arm swell and bruise.

I questioned them about it but they said it would "be fine for a bit longer."

Again it was extremely difficult to find out what was actually wrong with me, they said that theyd taken cultures but couldnt isolate the infection. So I asked "Which antibiotics am I on then, if you dont know what youre treating?" During the course of my stay, nobody could confirm what was wrong and I was on several different medications, who knows which ones were actually necessary.

Generally the staff were more bad than good. There were two kind & helpful nurses, but

the rest I did not have a good experience with.

I hear in mothers group circles that Dr [REDACTED] is the one to see if you want a csection, he can come up with a reason for you to get one.

Subsequently I another two births, one a home birth and one a freebirth. I would never advise anybody to have their baby in the LGH, in fact I advise most people strongly against it.

I think specific intervention rates should be published for all hospitals, for transparency and so people know what they're getting themselves into, particularly if it means a 1 in 2 chance of having a csection for your first baby.

Maybe some hospitals would have incentive to pull their socks up.

The emotional toll if this birth was huge, it took me over a year to be able to properly bond with my baby. I will never get that time back.

I feel robbed by so many so called "health professionals" who completely ruined my experience, which, after two amazing home births, I can see can be an absolutely beautiful rite of passage without all this unnecessary carryon, and that you can feel amazing and happy postpartum, instead of feeling like you were run over by an LGH truck.

ITS NOT GOOD ENOUGH, LGH, DO BETTER.

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