

To whom it may concern,

My name is Anneika Chatwin, born on the [REDACTED]. I am writing to you in regards of my labour and delivery of my daughter here on the Northwest Coast of Tasmania at the Northwest Private Hospital, Burnie Tasmania.

On Monday the [REDACTED], I woke up at 12:30am with some stomach cramps that continued into the Morning. I got out of bed at roughly 10:00am. I then went to the toilet and noticed a little bit of my mucous plus on the toilet paper. I then continued with my day like any normal usual day. At roughly 11:45am my pain and cramps were becoming extremely regular. At close to 1:30pm I then called the Pregnancy Assessment Clinic number only to be told by the midwife on the phone that I couldn't go in due to the fact it was my first baby and my uterus wouldn't be contracting properly yet because my body doesn't know what to completely do, this all happened whilst I was on the ground because I couldn't move due to the pain. The midwife also said to me that I can also talk on the phone and because I was talking to her, I wasn't in labour. I then got off the phone and cried as I feel like I wasn't listened to and continued to have regular pains roughly 5-7 minutes apart. I then continued to just deal with these pains whilst home alone and stuck on the floor as I couldn't move. At 3:30pm I then messaged my partner and asked him to come home as I couldn't handle the pain anymore. I then called the main hospital number and asked to be put through to the Huon Ward, so I didn't have go through to the PAC again just to be told the same thing. I then said I would like to come up and be checked to which I was told the same thing, that I need to try stay home as long as possible. I then told them I was going to come in. Once I got to the ward and taken to the monitoring room, I then had a midwife named [REDACTED] I think [REDACTED] was from Sydney. [REDACTED] then spoke down on me and made me feel uncomfortable. [REDACTED] then asked to check to see if I was dilated to which I consented to. [REDACTED] then tried to lower the bed whilst I was grunting in pain and having a contraction. [REDACTED] then just watched me and continued to lower the bed to which I then had to put my foot down and tell her to stop and put the bed back up. Once I got comfortable and we checked if I was, I was only 2cm, but my baby was sitting low. [REDACTED] then got me 2 painkillers of endone and sent me home. I then continued labouring at home. At roughly 9:30pm I was then having contractions roughly 3-5 minutes apart. I then called the PAC number and spoke to them on the phone and told them how far apart they were and that I was in a lot of pain and that I spewed. The midwife then said to me that I need to stay home for as long as I can as it's my first child and my uterus doesn't know how to contract properly, and basically said it will pretty much be a waste of time going in. I then put my foot down and said I was going in to get checked to which they agreed on. I quite frankly live 2 minutes around the corner from the hospital and between my house and the hospital, I had 8 contractions. Once I arrived, I then had to call them back and get someone to meet me

out at the front door with a wheelchair. Once I was able to get out of the car and in the wheelchair, I then was taken to the labour suite. Once in the labour ward, I then got on the bed and once I was able to lay down, I was able to be checked to see how dilated I was. I was still then only 2cm, but the midwife ( ) said that my waters were bulging. I then asked what pain relief was available as I was really struggling with the pain, the midwife then said she was waiting to hear back from the doctor to get approval for some pain relief. I was then only offered a shot of Morphine. Roughly 15-30 minutes later, I then stood up off the bed and my waters broke. There was meconium in the fluid. As soon as my waters broke, my partner then went out to the car to bring our bags in. I then had to start pushing straight away and my mum had to run out and get the midwife as it was only my mum and I in the room. I then was trying to stop myself from pushing as the midwife didn't check to see if I was at the 10cm dilation. I was trying to stop myself from pushing for roughly a good 10 minutes until I kept saying "I need to push". The midwife then said to me "Let your body do what it wants to do" so I continued to push. I was squatting on the ground and then the midwife told me I needed to get up on the bed to which I did. I couldn't choose a good position as I was in a lot of pain and had pure back labour. I then laboured and pushed on my back. I was then only in active labour for 1 hour & 9 minutes. My daughter was born at 12:39AM on the ( ). I then delivered the placenta, the midwives ( ) and ( ) then looked at everything to make sure I didn't need stitches or anything. I was left to bond and relax for a couple of hours which was good. I then got up and showered and made my way back to the ward. It was roughly 4:30am when I got to my room on the ward. The same day on the Tuesday a doctor then came in at roughly 11:00am and asked me what contraception I would like. I then refused and said I didn't want any and if I did, I would go to my usual GP to get some, the doctor was rude towards me and then just left the room when I refused. On the Wednesday I had a good day and families from my side and my child's fathers side came to meet our daughter. On Wednesday the ( ), at roughly 6:30pm, I was sitting on my bed in the room and my mother and child's father was in there with me, my mum was holding my daughter. I then went lightheaded, and my vision went funny, I had chest pains also and my blood pressure was high. I then pressed the buzzer, and a midwife came in and I let her know what was going on to which she then called the doctor. I then started sweating bad but was shaking like I was having a seizure but because I was still conscious, they said it wasn't. They then done an ECG, bloods, urine labs and my blood pressure were 140-150s/90s. I then had to ask for a wheelchair so I could get my partner to take me outside for some fresh air. This scared me a lot as I didn't know what was going on. My daughter then needed to be fed so I asked my mum to meet me in the waiting room so I could feed her as I did not feel safe and felt funny when I thought about the hospital room because of what happened. I then fed my baby and then my mum took her back to the room as she fell asleep. I then sat in the waiting room for longer to try process what just happened. My baby then woke back up, so I had to push myself to be able to go back into the room. I then struggled to sleep as I was so



scared something was going to happen. On Thursday [REDACTED] at roughly 7:30am I buzzed the midwife in to see if my results were back to which they were, and she told me there was protein in my urine and it was over 200. The midwife then left the room and didn't explain any of my results and freaked me out. I then pressed the buzzer again and got the midwife that delivered my daughter and asked her to explain my results to which she did. I was then asked later if I was going home but then the midwife checked my blood pressure, and it was still in the 140-150s/90s so she then consulted with the doctor and the doctor came in and spoke to me and told me I needed to stay another night due to it being high. I then felt funny on and off on the Thursday, the Thursday night I then buzzed the midwife in and told her I wanted a doctor to come down to see me otherwise I was discharging us and going to emergency. The doctor that asked me about contraception then came down and treated me like crap and didn't speak very nicely. Now for someone that's just birthed a baby the doctor was not very comforting. I then told the doctor I wanted bloods, and everything done again to see if anything had dropped as my WCC was high. I asked the doctor about pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, and she told me that I have delivered my baby and placenta so I can't get them now. The midwife then came back in and done an assessment on me and told me that it's all in my head and I have anxiety. I then said that this is not anxiety, but they kept telling me it was. The midwife then left the room and only came in every 2-4 hourly to check my blood pressure and continued doing this through the night. On Friday [REDACTED] I then was asked if I was going home on that day. I then said yes even though I did not want to because of my blood pressure still being high, my vision still being funny and not being able to walk without feeling lightheaded, but I felt like I was being forced to leave as it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> day in a row that they had asked me. Roughly 12:30pm I then was discharged and left the hospital. After leaving the hospital and I was home for about 2 hours, I went to the toilet as I felt a 'gush'. I then looked at my pad and I had passed a big clot that was about the size of a 50-cent coin. I then called the extended midwife care phone number and let them know about the clot and asked if someone was able to come out and check it or if I was able to go in but as I had been discharged, I was not allowed back at the ward and I sent them a photo and they said it was 'normal'. I then ended up going to emergency as I was still having episodes where I was getting chest pains, funny vision, high blood pressure, light headiness and started getting sweats but had the shaking happen again and wanted to get the blood clot checked out. I then wasn't really examined and was just sent home with a prescription for an antibiotic for an 'infection'. Once I got home, I was then okay for a bit until about 12am on the [REDACTED] then it was all happening again, so I went back to where I finally had bloods taken. My CRP levels were then 108 which is high considering the levels should be below 5. I was then discharged without answers again. At 6:30PM I was then back in hospital for the exact same reasons to which I then had a d-dimer blood test that came back .3 above recommended marker but due to being freshly post-partum we weren't exactly sure what caused it to be high. I then had a chest x-ray and CTPA test to check



for a blood clot on the lungs just to rule it out to which both came back clear. I then went back home and still had no answers. I have then ended up in emergency multiple times now due to the chest pains and everything else but still don't have any answers to what was happening or where my infection was. I then got my first menstrual cycle on 01/09/██████. After my menstrual cycle had finished, I had a gynaecologist appointment on ██████. I paid money to go see Dr ██████ the private Gyno on the Northwest Coast. Dr ██████ and I spoke, and I explained everything to her such as my labour and post-partum experience, I then said to her that I 'grazed' and it doesn't feel right. Dr ██████ then examined me and put her camera on so I could see so she could explain everything. Dr ██████ then looked at my 'graze' and said to me that I should have had stitches and something like that should've healed within 2 weeks, but I am now almost 8 weeks pp, and I have only just started healing. In the last 8 weeks of post-partum I have had a rough run, I have had a whole lot of blood works, CTPA, Chest x-ray and an MRI on the brain to see if I have answers to which I still don't. I now only am getting funny visions everyday still just not as many times in a day. This is my first pregnancy so my first child. Due to my experience, I will never birth in Burnie ever again. This experience for a first-time mum is traumatising. I am extremely traumatised from my experience and would not wish this upon my worst enemy. I honestly will never birth in Burnie again unless Dr ██████ comes back, and I will be going private and that is also if I ever try go back for a 2<sup>nd</sup> child in the future after this experience. The maternity service needs to really be changed because first time mums shouldn't be having problems like this nor be treated like this.

Now whilst I was pregnant, I was obviously getting care and appointments through the antenatal clinic. This system also needs to be reviewed badly as well. At my 28-week appointment I think it was, my daughter's father came to every single appointment with me and never missed one. At this one certain appointment I had a midwife name ██████. ██████ did not treat my daughter's father and I very nicely at all. We explained to her how ██████ my partner had lost a son with his ex-partner when she was 22+2 weeks pregnant. ██████ then said how sometimes he struggles to touch my belly as it's scary for him due to what happened to his son. On the ██████, ██████ dad also passed away suddenly at home to which made him quite upset as well and the midwife knew this but obviously didn't care with what she was saying. ██████ also lost his mum in 2022, so this was obviously a hard time for him and all the midwives knew this as it was written on my file. The whole maternity and midwife service in Burnie on the Northwest Coast is poor and needs to certainly become better before no one wants to birth there or get the antenatal care.

If you have gotten this far into my story, thank you. I really appreciate your time and effort. I look forward to hearing back if I do.

Kind Regards, Anneika Chatwin