

Post 1.8.81

Hospital 'horrible'

A Karori woman who has just given birth at Wellington Women's Hospital said her stay in the hospital was one of the worst experiences of her life.

The woman, who does not want her name published, said she was placed in a room with three other women and kept up a continuous flow all day.

She had no privacy and little opportunity to rest after the birth of her child, she said.

She has written a letter to Mr Dick Laurenson, the medical superintendent, complaining about her treatment and suggesting a fairer way of allocating the hospital's single rooms.

Her letter — a copy of which was sent as a letter to the editor — began:

"Having experienced delivering a baby at the Wellington Women's Hospital on the 11th of this month, I found the first 24 hours, post-delivery, so horrible that I would like you to know about it.

"I was shifted into a room with three others at 5.30am. Apart from the usual hospital routine, and the babies, visitors began arriving at 9am for the other patients

and kept up a continuous flow all day.

"I had no privacy and no opportunity to sleep off the previous night's experience," she said.

"I would count that first day as one of the worst in my whole life.

She said that out of seven women who shared her room during four days, four had to go through a whole day after giving birth before being able to sleep.

First day

She said the single rooms should be allocated in such a way that all women could have one for the first day after giving birth.

"At present some women are given single rooms on the third and fourth day, by which time the need is not so great.

"Surely even caesarian patients could be moved out of their isolation after their fifth day — that is if single rooms are at a premium," she said.

Mr Laurenson said he was not able to comment on the letter because it had not yet arrived.

However, Miss Gloria Grattan, Wellington Hospital's principal nurse, has received a copy of the letter.

"I have discussed this with the assistant principal nurse from Wellington Women's and she is following up the various things that have been mentioned in the letter," she said.

Miss Grattan said that all correspondence like this was thoroughly checked out to find exactly what did happen.

Until her assistant reported back, she could not say any more.

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