



A SINGLE WOMAN WILL MEET
6000 MEN IN HER LIFE

smh.com.au

The Sydney Morning Herald

Print this article | Close this window

P9 2

Tears, anguish over hospital of horrors

Alexandra Smith
November 17, 2007

ONE of the state's most senior intensive care doctors broke down as he gave evidence to a NSW parliamentary inquiry into North Shore Hospital.

Advertisement

Another leading specialist yesterday described sections of the hospital as "Third World squalor".

Patients and relatives also recounted their horror stories of treatment at the hospital, including one woman with a burst appendix who waited more than eight hours for surgery and a quadriplegic who chewed through tubes so he could yell "help me" to his wife.

Jana Horska, who miscarried in a hospital toilet, and her husband, Mark Dreyer, wept as they gave evidence to the inquiry.

Mr Dreyer recounted the night in September when his 14-weeks-pregnant wife went to Royal North Shore with fears she was about to lose their baby. Ms Horska's miscarriage prompted the inquiry, which has taken evidence from more than 30 witnesses.

Mr Dreyer said that despite being in acute pain, Ms Horska was not seen by a doctor and was told just to sit and wait her turn.

When they asked for urgent treatment, staff made them feel like they were trying to "jump the queue".

Mr Dreyer told the inquiry that after Ms Horska miscarried in the toilets she had felt a heartbeat, saw legs move and the live foetus had appeared to open its mouth in an attempt to breathe.

A distraught Ms Horska said that shortly after, one nurse said to her: "Don't worry. My mother has had heaps of miscarriages."

"They were so cold, so cold towards me," Ms Horska said.

Malcolm Fisher, area director for intensive care and critical care, could not bring himself to finish reading a

WOUND UP OVER CHRISTMAS?

