

Dear Community Secretary

I am a mother of three young boys. I have had the experience of birth and the loss of a baby through miscarriage. Home birth is a very important issue for me and women we need the choice to choose how to birth. Women need to develop a birth plan with the option of birthing at home being a priority.

My first birth was in a hospital, which resulted in a healthy baby, yet which left me exhausted and disempowered. My second birth was in a birth centre, which gave me another healthy baby, yet my choices were limited and over powered by the preferences of the midwives experience and hospital policy. My third birth was at home, where my labour was short, my baby was healthy, he was welcomed into his home immediately by his brothers and wonderful midwives. I was able to relax and enjoy the birth of my baby.

Going to hospital, which is often cold and clinically, caused me confusion. I started to think more about the pain and what to do about reducing it then focusing on the baby's birth. My labours were long and arduous, I was left feeling numb and out of control.

Don't put women at risk by limited birth choices. Birth is natural and doesn't always need medical intervention, we are modern women who know how to manage our birth. Midwives are the most important part of birth plan. At each of my births midwives assisted me with my births, a doctor played a very small part in my pregnancies.

Please spend time legislating on something else and leave women to women's business.

My best regards

Leanne Egan-Scott