# Timing is everything – how fertility is impacted by age, stage… and wage

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| The average age at first birth is increasing in NZ as in many other developed nations. As women’s level of education increases, so does age at first birth which can increase the chance of experiencing fertility issues or smaller than desired family size. Timing of pregnancies can be difficult around the demands of medical training. Literature suggests that female physicians have higher rates of infertility than the general population so it’s important that doctors consider their fertility goals alongside career planning.  Declining egg quality is a significant factor in the declining chance of baby as women age. Fertility assessment and the option of oocyte cryopreservation will be discussed. Current issues around access to funded fertility treatment and resulting inequities will be described. |