



# FERTILITY STUDY

1000 NZ WOMEN



# AGENDA

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

SAMPLE & METHODOLOGY

BARRIERS TO HAVING CHILDREN

MYTHS ABOUT FERTILITY

SUMMARY



## **Making a difference for New Zealanders with fertility issues & infertility**

fertilityNZ is a national organisation dedicated to supporting, informing, educating and advocating for men and women concerned with reproductive health, infertility, fertility preservation and all forms of whanau building.



# OBJECTIVES

*These General Public Research findings should contribute towards:*

☒ Prevention of Infertility

This may include a focus on education targeting young people with the objective of helping them to become more fertility aware and not delay children too long, or ignore health indicators.

☒ Attitudinal Shift of Infertility

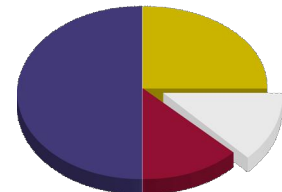
Helping the General Public be more informed about the widespread incidences of infertility in various forms, and become more sensitive to it as part of society.

☒ Decision-maker Focus

Providing accurate and enlightening information to key decision-makers in Government to help them make better decisions.

☒ Medical Profession Focus

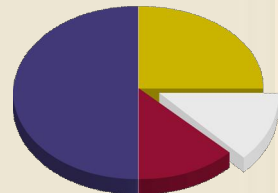
Helping to keep the medical profession informed and focused on the issue of fertility



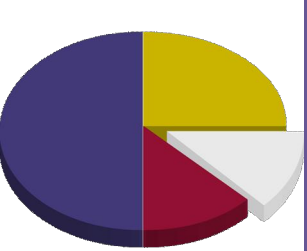


# METHODOLOGY

- 1048 NZ Woman Interviewed by telephone during July 2005
- Interviews part of wider research – sample not biased to topic experience or interest
- Sample demographically representative of wider population
- Independent fieldwork company used
- Total sample weighted by age factor

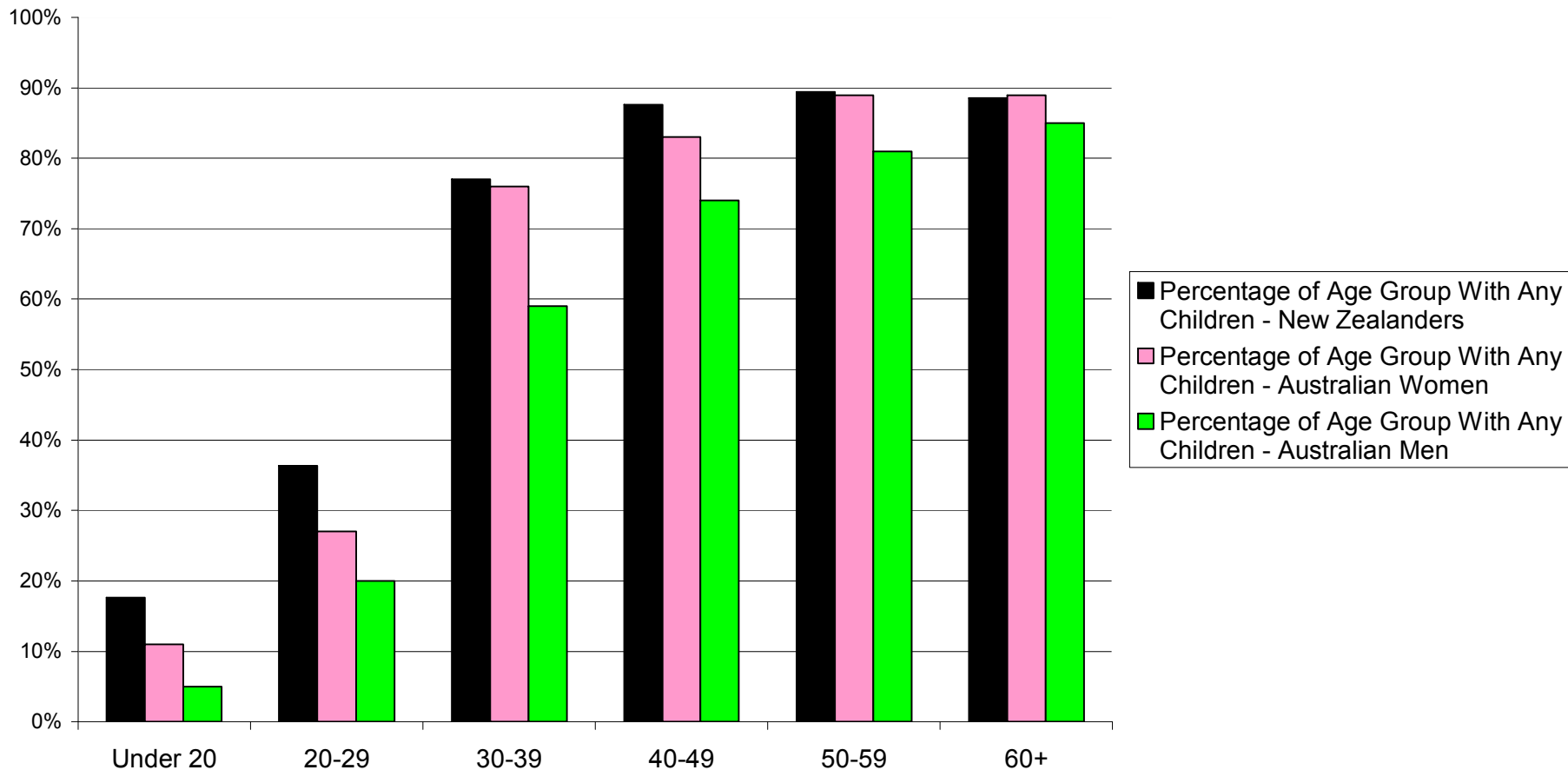


# DELAYED PARENTING



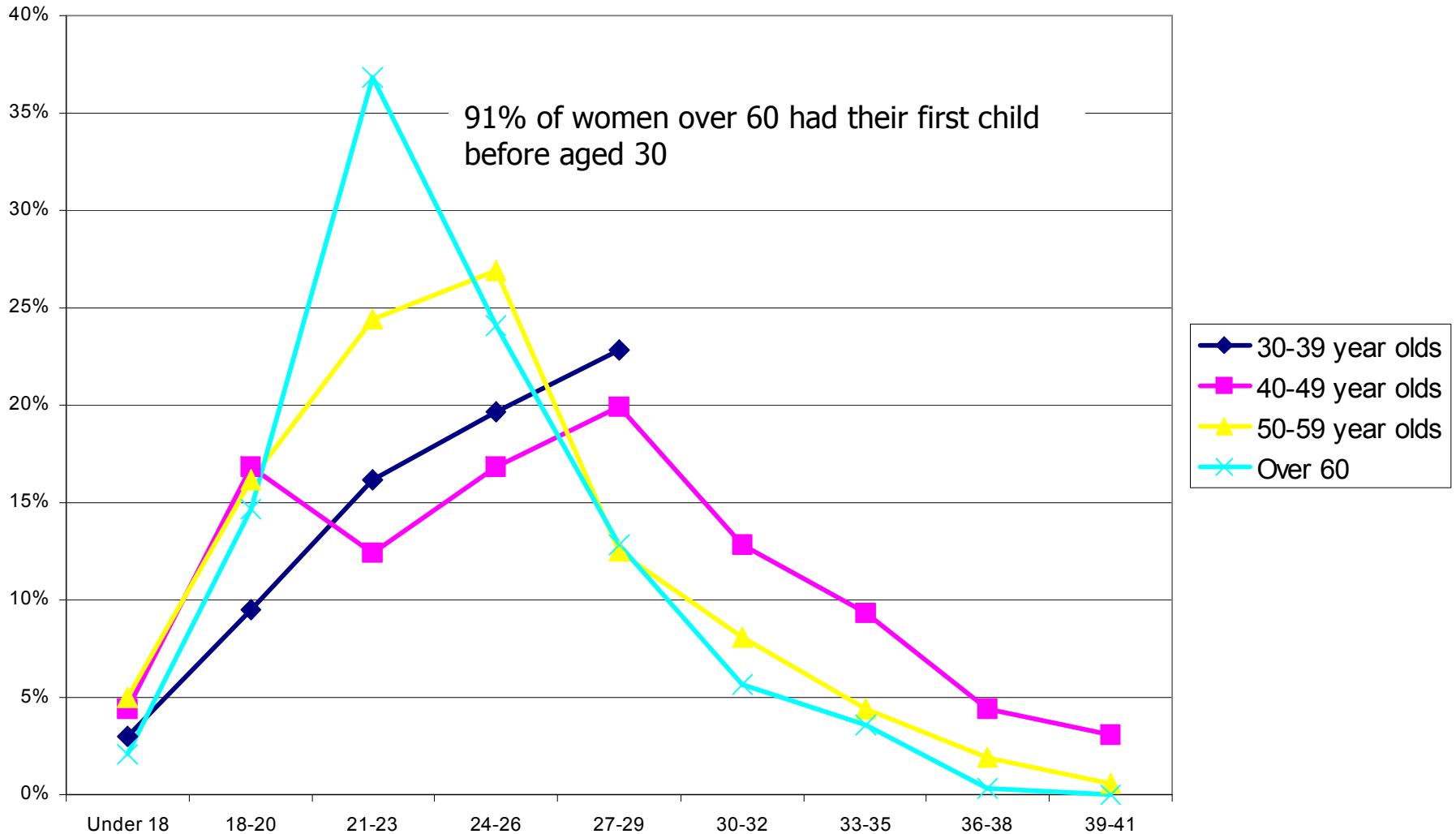
# THOSE WITH CHILDREN

**Percentage of Age Group With Children  
New Zealand / Australia Comparison**





# DELAYING IN NZ



84% of all women said '20s' is the ideal time to have children

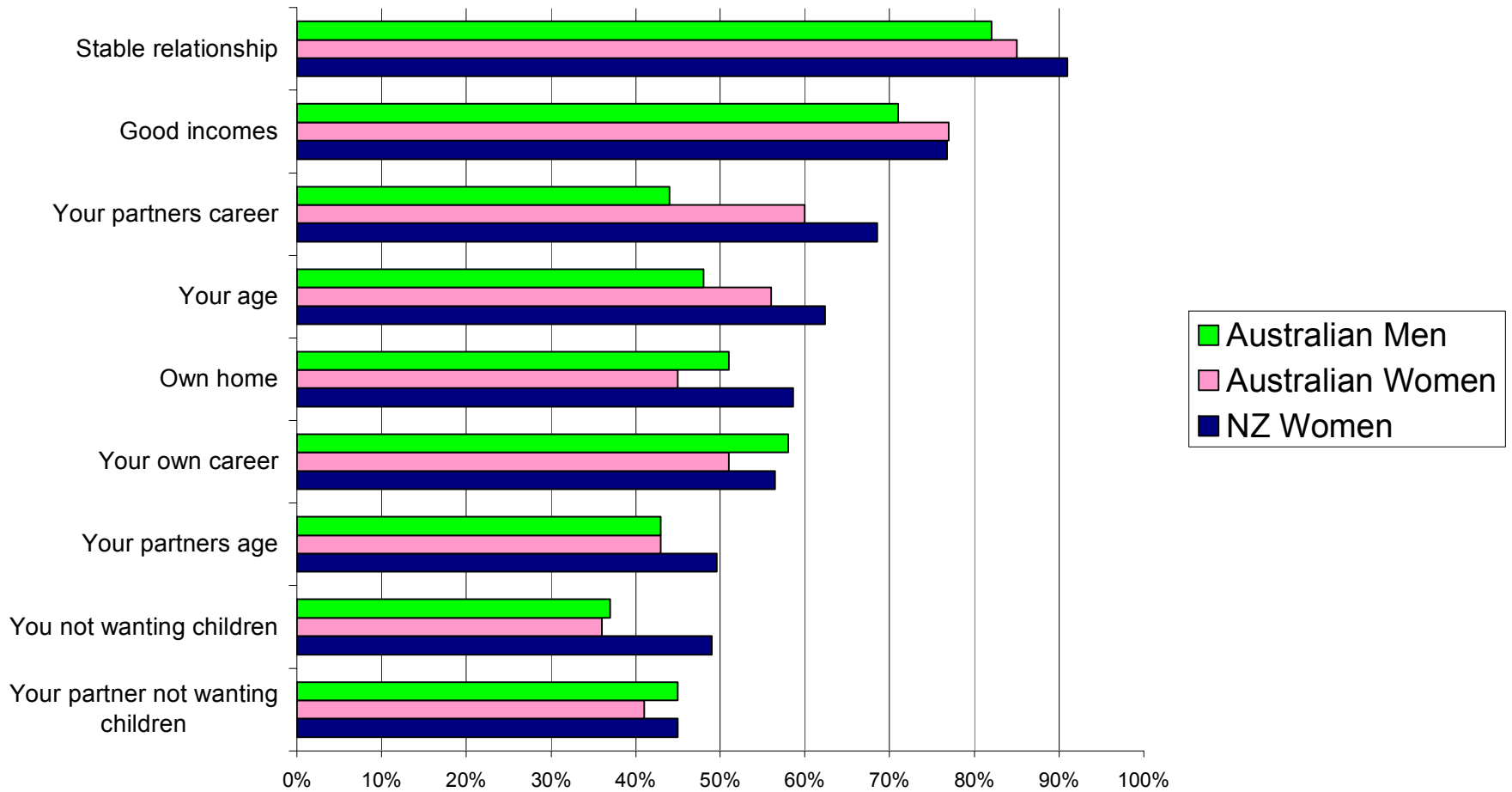
But

67% of women in their 20s said they weren't ready to have children yet

# BARRIERS TO HAVING CHILDREN

# RELEVANCE OF FACTORS

People With No Children - Relevance of Factors

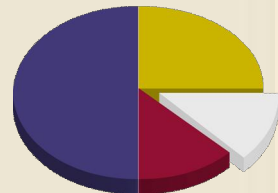


# RELATIONSHIPS

✦ Being in stable relationship is the highest rated issue in relevance in deciding if / when to have children – over 90% rate it as important

✦ 24% are not in a relationship

A third of those who live outside of 3 main cities are single



# LIFESTYLE & SECURITY

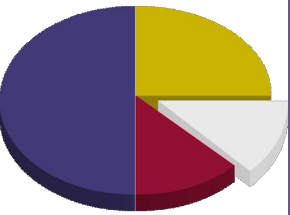
## THE 'OPPORTUNITY COST' OF HAVING CHILDREN

*Of those without children by choice:*

- ✘ Nearly half of women in their 30's say they are not ready to have children yet
- ✘ Half of all married women say they are not ready yet
- ✘ A third of those in their 30's are choosing not have children ever

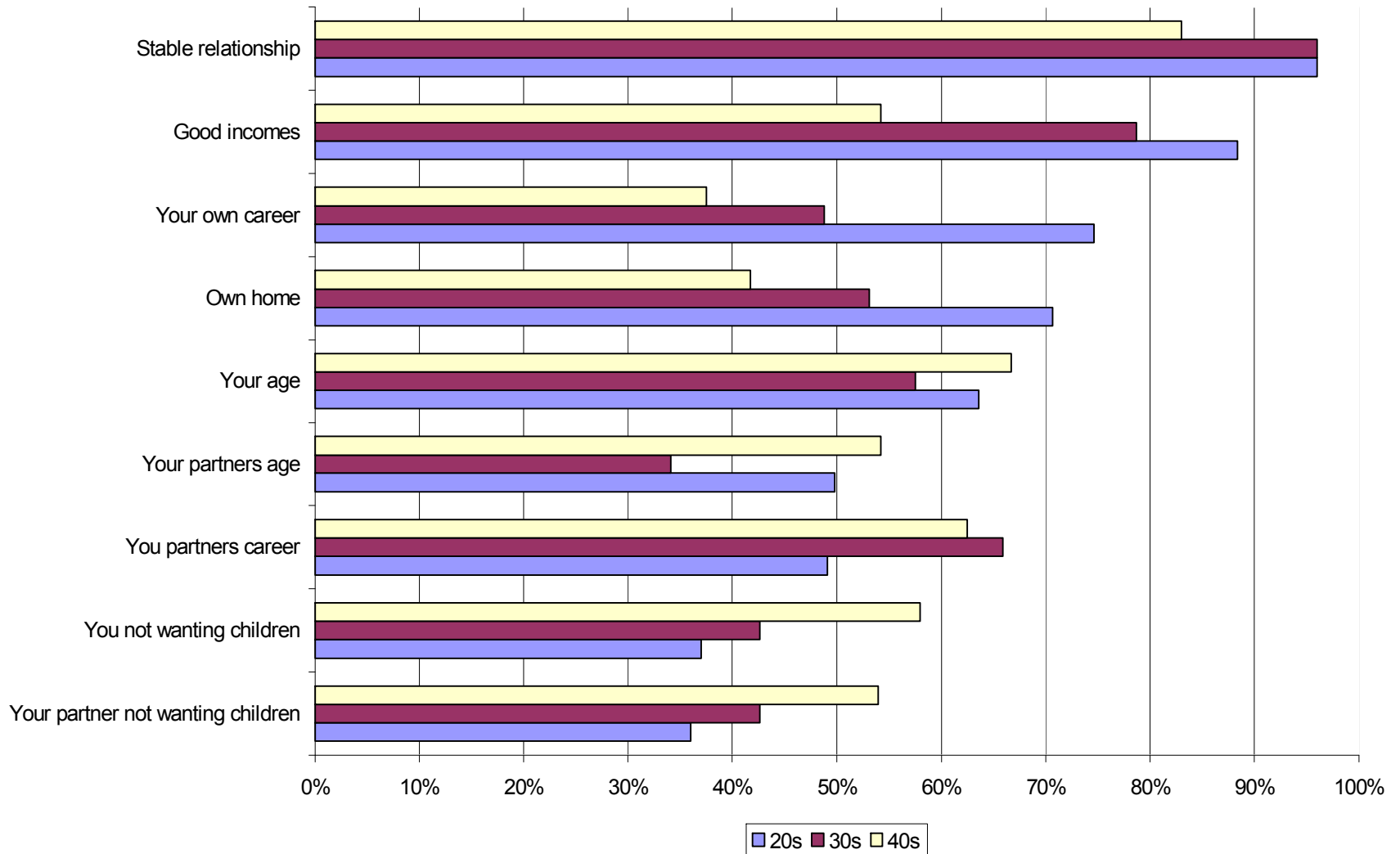
## THE NEED FOR SECURITY

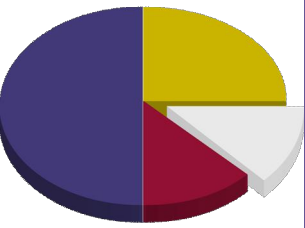
- ✘ The primary concerns expressed by NZ Women in relation to having children are relationship stability, income, and partner's job security



# AGE DIFFERENCES

Importance of Factors Relating to Age of Women





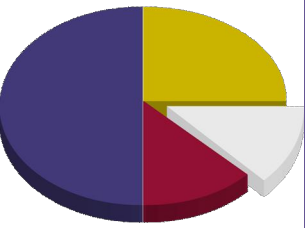
# MEDICAL CONDITIONS

## **Women in their 30's**

- ❖ 1 in 6 women diagnosed with endometriosis
- ❖ 10% have PCO
- ❖ A third have had a miscarriage
- ❖ Two thirds have had painful periods or feel unwell at time of periods

## **Older Women:**

- ❖ A third of women over 50 have had a hysterectomy. Those more likely to have had one live in Auckland and are on high household incomes



# LACK OF FERTILITY PRESERVATION

- ✦ 40% of NZ women mentioned one or more medical issue relating to their fertility
- ✦ Only half have ever sought medical advice in relation to their fertility
- ✦ Women in their 30's even more likely than those in their 20s to wait a year or more before seeking medical advice for infertility

Labett Research study with over 700 Australian General Practitioners showed 90% underestimate the incidence of infertility

# MYTHS

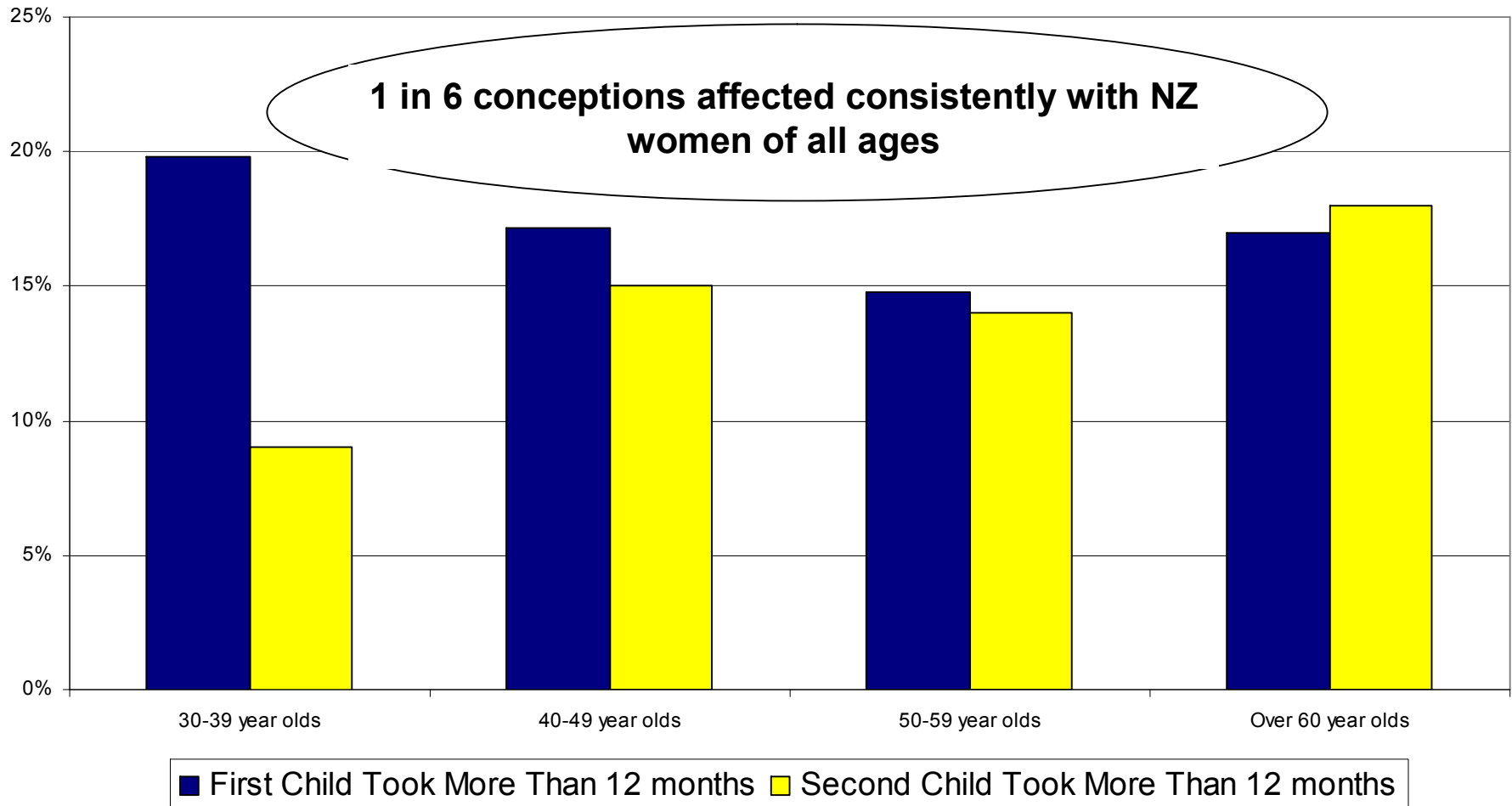
# WE ARE ALL FERTILE

Women who don't think they would have any trouble conceiving:

- ✦ 86% of women in their 20s
- ✦ 85% of women in their 30s
- ✦ A third of women in their 40s!

# INFERTILITY IS A MODERN ISSUE?

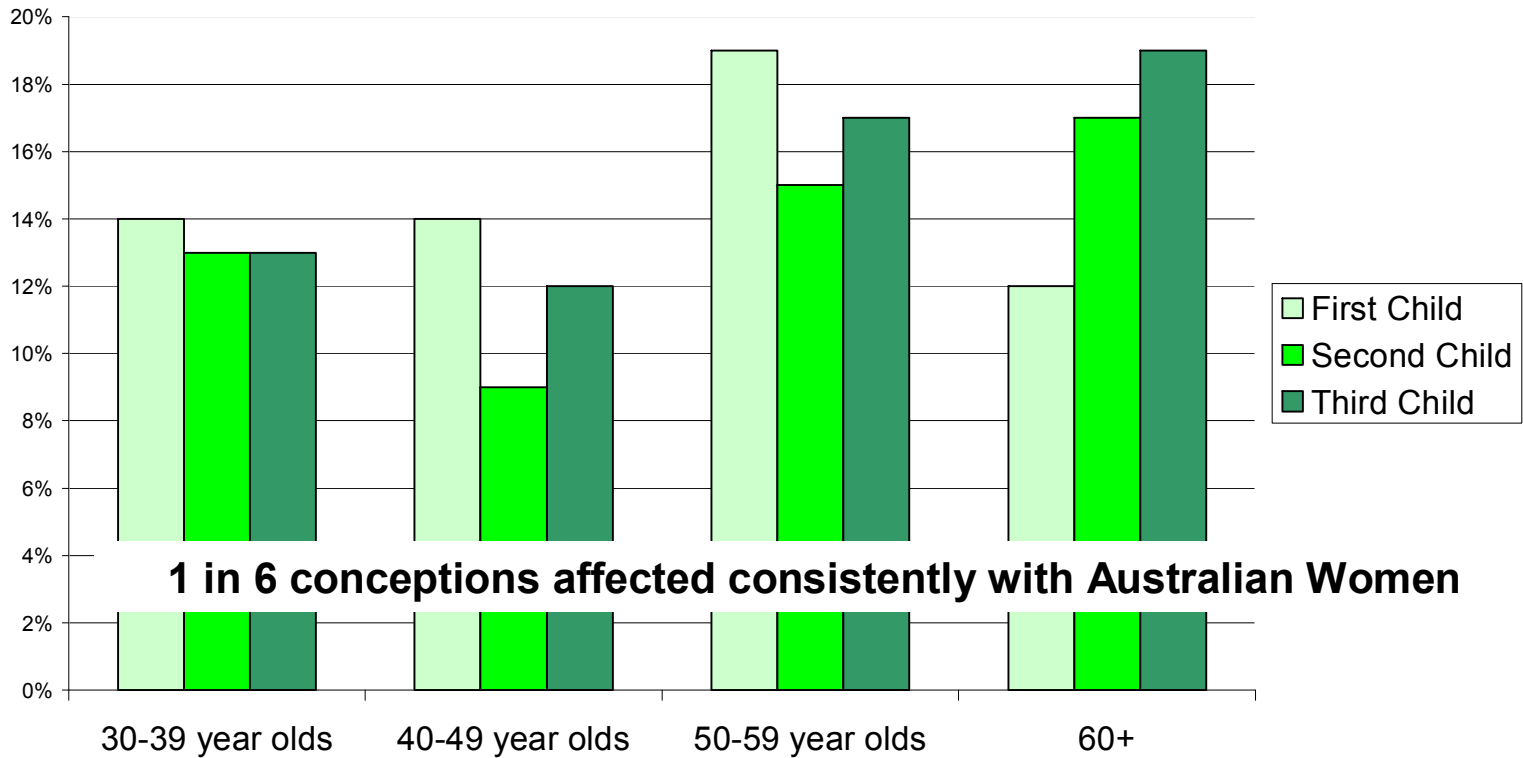
Women Who Have Given Birth Who Have Been Affected By Infertility



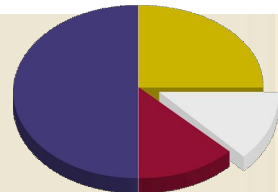


# INFERTILITY Is A MODERN ISSUE?

Those That Took More Than 12 Months to Conceive a Planned Pregnancy  
- Shown as a Percentage of Current Age Group

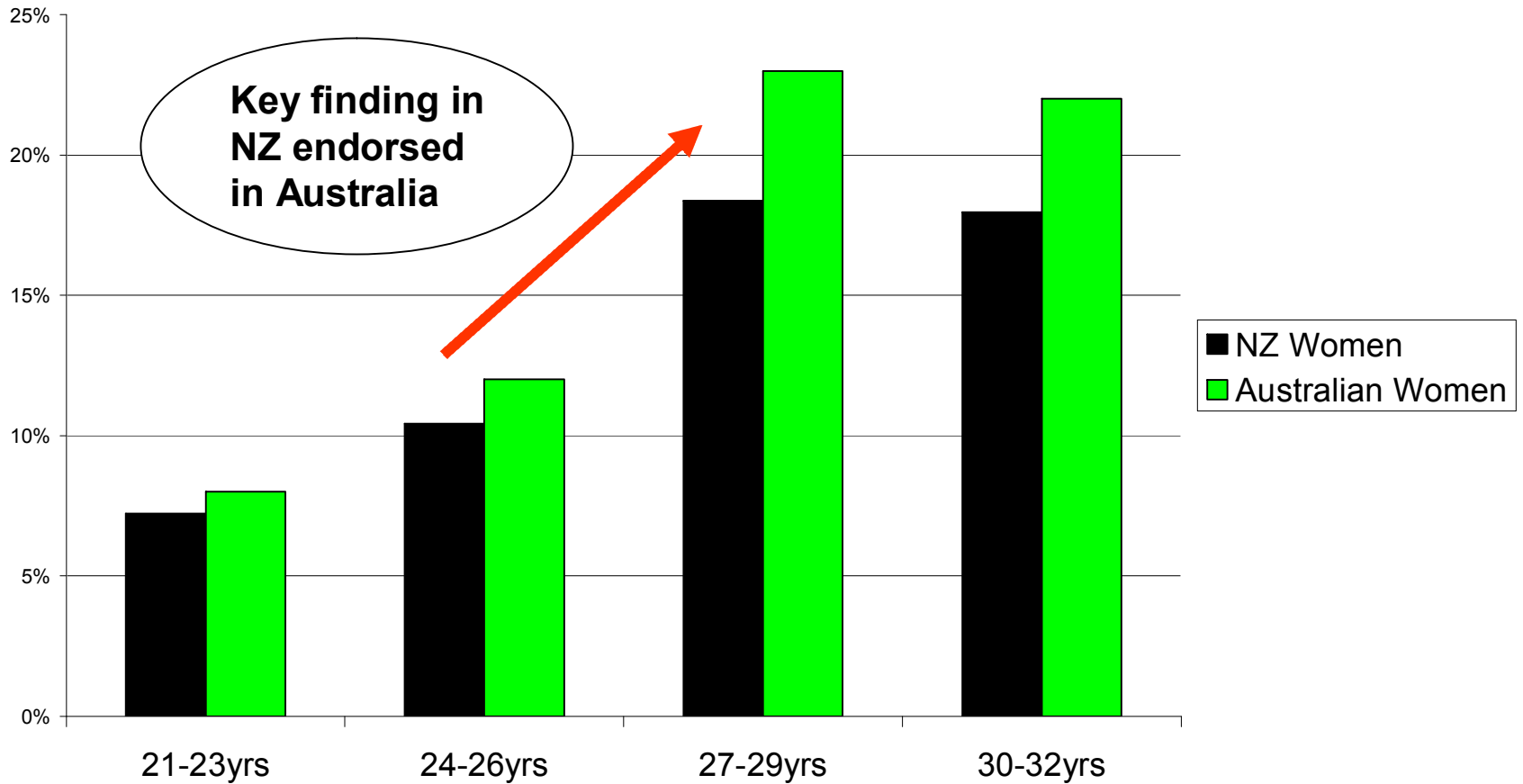


# MYTHS



# INFERTILITY IS CAUSED BY DELAYED PARENTING

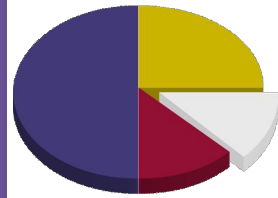
Took More Than 12 Months to Conceive



# SUMMARY



# SUMMARY



## As a society :

- ☒ We do not have realistic expectations of our fertility
- ☒ We are not seeking adequate treatment for conditions relating to our fertility
- ☒ Delayed parenting stems from wide social issues that need to be addressed by society as a whole
- ☒ There is a need for an educational campaign in New Zealand