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## Fertility and urban/regional change in Victoria

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### **Abstract**

This paper will discuss fertility issues and trends in Victoria.

The characteristics of fertility decline will be reviewed: declining numbers and later childbearing. Factors contributing to fertility patterns will be considered including work and education for women, medical technologies, the cost of children, partnership/family formation and social landscape and values.

The paper will then consider the geography of fertility in Victoria. While rates are generally falling, fertility rates are not uniform across Victoria and some places still have fertility rates above replacement level. It will discuss regional urban differences as well as smaller geographic areas and consider fertility rates alongside other characteristics of areas. Implications for fertility change will also be discussed.

A series of thought-provoking questions will be posed throughout the paper.