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# Mr Right 'is not worth the wait'

## EXCLUSIVE

By **JULIA MEDEW**  
HEALTH EDITOR

WOMEN considering freezing their eggs for social reasons would be better off settling for "Mr Not-Quite-Right" as a father sooner rather than later, a leading IVF specialist says.

While many fertility clinics are starting to spruik egg freezing to women in their 20s and 30s so they can defer child birth for non-medical reasons, the director of Monash IVE, Professor Gab Kovacs, said women should not be conned into thinking it offered a "guaranteed family in the fridge".

He said that given that the rate of successful births from egg freezing was low and the technology still improving, it was too early for women in their late 20s and early 30s to think they could rely on it later in life.

"I think they should be working harder to find a part-

ner or changing their criteria for 'Mr Right,'" Professor Kovacs said.

"Maybe there is no 'Mr Right' and you have to settle for 'Mr Not-Too-Bad'. There is no such thing as a perfect person for anybody, and even if they're perfect now, they won't be perfect in five or 10 years' time."

Egg freezing for social reasons, rather than medical reasons such as the prevention of infertility from cancer treatment, is not covered by Medicare. It costs between \$10,000 and \$14,000 per cycle.

Depending on the woman, one cycle will retrieve about 10 eggs each time, giving the woman varying chances of a successful pregnancy depending on when she chooses to proceed with IVF.

The egg retrieval procedure carries about a one-in-1000

risk of significant complications, such as bleeding or infection.

Professor Kovacs' comments come after a meeting of fertility specialists in the US was told that women were much more likely to conceive through IVF if their eggs were frozen when they were under 30, compared with if they waited until their 30s or 40s — the period when most women attempt egg freezing.

A team led by Aylin Pelin Cil, at Reproductive Medicine Associates, in New York, said an analysis of 26 studies showed that conception occurred in about 18 per cent of cases involving eggs from women aged under 30, compared with 10.3 per cent of cases involving eggs from women in their 40s. The statistics applied to eggs that were

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