



Chairperson's Report
Fertility New Zealand Annual General Meeting
27 November 2025

Fertility New Zealand (Fertility NZ) is a unique organisation. A small but mighty charity, we walk alongside all New Zealanders facing fertility challenges.

Sometimes the support steps we offer are small, through our helpline and website we give advice and information about where to get further support. We also have a strong network of volunteers across the country, complemented by specialist advisers, who help us support people in person and online. We continue to advocate on behalf of consumers through submissions to law changes and as consumer representatives on committees.

As an organisation with a proud 30 year history, the Fertility NZ Board is incredibly mindful of nurturing and protecting the special taonga that is the organisation Fertility NZ. When I look back on 2025 there have been many constants, but also change.

Like many other small New Zealand charities, Fertility NZ faced financial challenges in the current economic environment. Despite these challenges the Fertility NZ Board remains confident in our organisation and our ability to carry out our mission.

Being a sustainable organisation continues to be a core part of our organisational strategy. This year the Board made the difficult decision to reduce the number of permanent staff we have. A number of internal changes have been made to ensure that the organisation runs successfully, and I'm grateful for the work of the Board, and our CEO Lydia Hemingway, as we have navigated these changes.

I would like to acknowledge Lydia's role as the face of Fertility NZ, and her work in driving our purpose and operations each day. It's been a big year for Fertility NZ and she has continued to show commitment and support to our communities every day.

Another significant piece of work has been the re-drafting of Fertility NZ's constitution to meet changes to the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. We are well placed to meet the deadline for this work in April 2026, and this stands the organisation in good stead for the future.

None of our work is possible without the support of our partners and volunteers. We are grateful to the Fertility Clinics around the country - Fertility Associates, Repromed and Fertility Plus. Their partnership, including the Board of Advisors that come from each of these clinics, play a critical role in our success. We are also supported by many other organisations including the Fertility Society of Australia and New Zealand, Cooper Surgical, Momentum, Bayer, and The Good Registry. We are also supported by a number of Trusts and Foundations.

I remain impressed at the commitment of Board, who volunteer both their time and expertise to ensure Fertility NZ is well governed. I would particularly like to thank our Board Secretary, Meg

Smith and our Treasurer, Tash Loulanting. Tash has led not only our financial work but also the review of our constitution, which was a significant piece of work.

I would also like to acknowledge Stuti Misra who will leave the board after having completed three terms. Stuti brings commitment and energy to both her volunteer work for Fertility NZ and to the board - she will be missed.

This year, I completed my third year as Chairperson. This has been such a rewarding and interesting experience and one which I feel truly privileged to experience.

Fertility NZ's commitment to the fertility community remains unwavering and I look forward to working with you all next year to continue our important work.

Ki te kāpuia e kore e whati - we succeed together.

Madeleine Setchell
Chairperson – Fertility New Zealand