



# Expert Advisory Group on Genomics Australia

## Communiqué – 29 August 2023

### Second Meeting

The Expert Advisory Group (EAG) on Genomics Australia held its second meeting on Tuesday 29 August 2023.

Members discussed the actions needed to support translation of genomic health technologies into the healthcare system and areas that could benefit from a national approach in order to overcome challenges and barriers to effective translation.

Representatives from the Department of Health and Aged Care's Medical Benefits and Digital Health Division were invited to provide an overview of the Commonwealth's digital health agenda and cross-cutting issues to inform the EAG's advice about priorities for the new national genomics body, Genomics Australia.

Following this presentation, the EAG discussed key priorities under five main themes:

1. **Research (generation of evidence):** members discussed the importance of avoiding duplication of research investment and activity and the need to prioritise research efforts through improved collaboration.
2. **Translation (implementation of evidence into practice):** members discussed current health technology assessment processes and the importance of ensuring they are suitable for the assessment of genomic health technologies. They also discussed the need to consider funding mechanisms outside of the Medicare Benefits Schedule when considering how best to fund genomic health technologies.
3. **Data:** members discussed the complexity of genomic data management, including infrastructure, legal and operational issues, data security and the importance of considering First Nations' data sovereignty principles when developing approaches to genomic data information management.
4. **Community:** members discussed the importance of building trust with the community through consultation, ensuring First Nations genomics is led by First Nations people, the need for consumer education to be provided in lay terms, and the creation and maintenance of a national dynamic consent platform.
5. **Practice:** members discussed workforce requirements, highlighting the need for point-of-care support for general practitioners, embedding genomics in medical education curricula and mechanisms to make existing genomic expertise more widely available. Members also noted a need for greater visibility of genomic testing metrics.

The initial views of the EAG on the key priorities for Genomics Australia will be communicated to the Health Technology and Genomics Collaboration (HTGC) for initial feedback.

The next meeting of the EAG is scheduled for late November 2023.