



Expert Advisory Group on Genomics Australia

Communiqué – 30 November 2023

Third Meeting

The Expert Advisory Group (EAG) on Genomics Australia held its third meeting on Thursday 30 November 2023.

The Department of Health and Aged Care provided a summary of consultation activities undertaken to date on the establishment of Genomics Australia, including through the EAG, with First Nations' representatives and with states and territories through the Health Technology and Genomics Collaboration (HTGC).

Following this update, EAG members discussed feedback received from some jurisdictions through the HTGC on the EAG's *Statement of Key Priorities*. The statement describes the key priorities the EAG considers necessary to action to support effective translation of genomic health technologies into healthcare.

In response to the feedback, members agreed to further refine the key priorities to better articulate where Genomics Australia could provide value.

The final segment of the meeting was focused on discussing potential functions that Genomics Australia could perform. While the group agreed that further work would be undertaken out-of-session to finalise the EAG's recommended functions, members shared some of their preliminary thoughts:

- Genomics Australia should operate within the structures of the Australian federated health system and complement, and augment, work being undertaken in the sector. It should not duplicate, complicate or contradict existing work.
- Genomics Australia could have an advisory role to governments and be responsible for highlighting inefficiencies and ineffectiveness that currently exist and identifying opportunities for investment.
- Genomics Australia could advise governments on a nationally cohesive approach to genomic and health data.
- Genomics Australia could provide national leadership by defining, guiding and communicating best practice in health genomics and reducing fragmentation across primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare sectors.
- Genomics Australia could support the translation and implementation of evidence generated through genomic research (in Australia and incorporating international best practice).
- Genomics Australia should be focused on driving equity and access, and empowering communities.
- Genomics Australia should be future-focused and could advise on the vision for health genomics through activities such as horizon scanning and fostering national and international collaborations.
- Genomics Australia could have a role as a facilitator/coordinator to unify health genomic efforts.

- Genomics Australia could provide stewardship of the Australian genomics ecosystem.
- There should be an ongoing consultation mechanism to allow jurisdictions and other stakeholders to influence the body's activities.

The refined key priorities and the initial views of the EAG on recommended functions will be provided to the HTGC for consideration in early 2024. The next meeting of the EAG is expected to be held in April 2024.