



## Expert Advisory Group on Genomics Australia (EAG)

### Purpose, Priorities and Functions for Genomics Australia

The EAG recognises the need for Genomics Australia to support Australian governments in their collective aims, as outlined in the *National Health Genomics Policy Framework 2018-2021*<sup>1</sup>. Genomics Australia will deliver a cohesive national approach to the implementation of genomics into healthcare through coordination and collaboration with the aim of delivering better health outcomes for all Australians.

It is a primary principle of the recommendations that Genomics Australia will support and inform the functions of other government bodies and will not duplicate work already being undertaken.

A person-, family-, and community-centred approach will underpin all of Genomics Australia's activities.

### Recommended Purpose of Genomics Australia

To drive excellence and innovation in genomics research and translation, and enable clinical implementation, access and adoption of genomics to deliver better health outcomes for all Australians.

Genomics Australia will connect stakeholders and information through stewardship of the genomics and healthcare ecosystem and provide advice to support development of national policy, and nationally agreed approaches, to achieve timely and equitable access to genomics in healthcare.

### Current Priorities

The priorities listed below reflect *current* priorities underpinning the formation of Genomics Australia. The EAG recommends that Genomics Australia should have a dynamic process for ensuring the body's priorities can be updated to reflect sector developments.

1. A nationally co-ordinated approach to genomics in healthcare in Australia.
2. Greater community understanding and trust of genomic health technologies.
3. Indigenous genomics led by Indigenous people.
4. Equitable and timely provision of genomic healthcare.
5. A workforce with adequate capacity and capability to deliver genomics healthcare.
6. Evidence-based, sustainable and strategic investment in cost-effective genomics.
7. Prioritising and supporting research that informs the translation of evidence into policy and implementation into practice.
8. A nationally coordinated approach to the collection, storage and use of genomic information to improve health outcomes.
9. International collaboration on Australia's genomic priority areas to inform and maintain best practice in health genomics.

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<sup>1</sup> This document was the result of collaboration and agreement between all Australian governments and is currently being reviewed and updated. The recommendations of the EAG are written so as to accommodate any updates in the new National Health Genomics Policy Framework, noting the core principles are unlikely to change.



## Recommended Functions for Genomics Australia

1. Provide national leadership and stewardship of genomics in Australian healthcare, supporting a nationally coordinated approach to deliver equitable health outcomes.
2. Engage, coordinate, and liaise with stakeholders ensuring that health genomics is informed by the priorities of the people and implemented by a collaborative, multidisciplinary national genomics community including industry, pathology services, patients and the public.
3. While recognising the multi-dimensional impact of genomics, guide translation and implementation of person-centred, culturally appropriate approaches to sustainably integrate genomics into Australian healthcare.
4. Provide expert advice and evidence-based genomic health information to Australian governments in line with government policy and Genomics Australia's purpose.
5. Support national genomic practice, including health workforce policy objectives, capability, and capacity requirements.
6. Support efficient processes for genomic research ethics approvals and consent to facilitate national collaborative studies and clinical trials.
7. Promote the adoption of integrated nationally consistent standards of genomic data storage and sharing that facilitate greater information interoperability, while ensuring data security.
8. Collaborate nationally and internationally to facilitate genomic research, and the generation of evidence to inform policy and implementation into healthcare.
9. Any functions that the Minister, by writing, directs Genomics Australia to perform.