



Life Saving and Job Creating Medical Research – Establishing Genomics Australia

The Australian Government will invest \$28.1 million to establish a new agency, Genomics Australia, to support the implementation of genomics as a standard of healthcare in Australia.

Genomic medicine is a rapidly emerging medical discipline that uses a person's genetic and genomic information for improved diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.

The use of genomic technology in health care can improve and save the lives of many thousands of Australians, including for those with life threatening diseases and chronically debilitating conditions, including cancer.

Genomics Australia

Genomics Australia will be chaired by Professor Kathryn North AC. It will be established under the Health portfolio, to lead and coordinate a national program of work to support the integration of genomic medicine into routine clinical care in Australia in an efficient, effective, ethical and equitable way.

This will enable all Australians to access appropriate genomic sequencing technologies when necessary, providing faster and more accurate diagnoses and the identification of more precise and tailored treatments that can substantially improve health outcomes and save lives.

States and territories will be invited to partner with the Australian Government to ensure a nationally cohesive approach to embedding genomics within the Australian health care system.

Genomics Australia will then be established as a corporate Commonwealth entity under legislation from 1 January 2024.

Taskforce to establish Genomic Australia

From 1 July 2022, a Taskforce in the Department of Health, with expert guidance from Professor Kathryn North, will design and establish Genomics Australia. This will include engagement with consumers, health professionals, researchers and industry to identify key priorities and develop mutually beneficial partnerships.

Why is this important?

Genomic health technologies have the potential to reshape clinical practice and to fundamentally change the way we prevent, diagnose, treat and monitor illness, providing the opportunity to develop and deliver more precise and personalised treatments.

Genomics Australia will provide the centralised infrastructure and critical resources required to support whole-of-system change and accelerate the translation of genomic technologies into clinical practice and public health services. It will also position Australia to leverage existing investments, in partnership with the private sector, to drive medical and technological growth, including in relation to life threatening conditions such as cancers and rare diseases.

Who will benefit?

All Australians will have the potential to benefit from the increased availability of genomic testing and related healthcare services.

Genomics Australia will provide critical infrastructure and resources to accelerate the translation of genomic technologies into clinical practice and public health services.

Researchers and industry will benefit from the development of national and international collaborations and partnerships that will drive investments in health and medical research.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government is investing \$28.1 million over four years, from 2022–23 to 2025–26.