



THE UNITED INDUSTRY VOICE FOR AUSTRALIAN GENOMICS

February 2025

Message from the CEO

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2025! This year has already begun with strong momentum for genomics in Australia. A significant milestone was the government's announcement of a new MBS item for genetic testing in patients diagnosed with early or metastatic breast cancer who may be eligible for Olaparib.

Our member, **AstraZeneca**, played a key role in ensuring readiness for the introduction of genetic testing—collaborating with clinicians, oncologists, surgeons, patients, and pathology services to support this implementation. This achievement highlights the important role of industry working collaboratively and proactively to improve access to precision medicine.

With a Federal election on the horizon, InGeNA has been actively engaging with our members, consumer advisory groups, and government stakeholders, including ministerial offices. Amplifying the voices of industry working collaboratively with consumers is central to how we work, and it strengthens our advocacy for equitable access to genomic medicine. There is still much to do, but by continuing to drive momentum together, we can make meaningful progress—such as expanding access to comprehensive genomic profiling (CGP) for cancer patients. Two reports released this week reinforce the importance of genomics-guided care in cancer.

On **World Cancer Day**, we welcome the publication of the [Advancing Genomic-Led Cancer Care in Australia](#) report, developed from the Roundtables hosted by Rare Cancers Australia and Australian Genomics that we participated in. This report reinforces the critical opportunity Australia has to transform cancer care by embedding genomic profiling into routine clinical practice. Congratulations to all involved in this important work.

We welcome the release of the Cancer Australia [National Framework for Genomics in Cancer Control](#) and its emphasis on clinical implementation, workforce development, and commitments to equity and cultural safety. Thank you

the framework's authors for their comprehensive work, as well as to our industry and consumer advisory group members who contributed to our submission. Now, we must work together to turn this vision into reality.

We are engaging closely with the Department on the establishment of Genomics Australia and look forward to the release of the draft Genomics Policy Framework due in April. We are planning our consultation on the Draft Framework and have discussed our plans with the Department.

Another key focus is the delay in passing legislation to ban genetic discrimination in life insurance. InGeNA has written to and engaged with the government on this matter, but more advocacy is needed. Please see the section below for ways to support Jane Tiller's efforts and take action.

InGeNA is a partner and sponsor of the Summer Internship for Indigenous Peoples in Genomics "SING" Australia. We are excited to share that applications are now open - see details below.

As always, thank you for your continued support and engagement. We look forward to working together throughout 2025 to advance genomics and precision medicine in Australia.

Warm regards,

Erin

CEO, InGeNA

Message from the Chair

Dear Members and friends of InGeNA,

Happy New Year ! We are planning an exciting and productive 2025 and look forward to working with you all to make this year a true milestone in advancing the Australian's access to genomics with the ultimate goal of improving health outcomes for everyone.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new independent director, [Edith Hurt](#), whose deep expertise in health and not-for-profits will further strengthen our leadership team providing a strong foundation for the execution of InGeNA's goals in 2025.

Applications for a new member elected director have closed, thank you to those members who submitted an application, the board will be finalising this appointment in the coming weeks and we look forward to updating members at that time.

Kind regards

Carl

Support for the Ban on Genetic Discrimination in Life Insurance

A message from Jane Tiller:

You may have seen the [media](#) last week about the delays in passing the legislation banning genetic discrimination in life insurance. To show your support there are 2 Very Quick things that you can do this week:

1. Use this [form](#) to send off a quick message to your Federal MP and the government. These email campaigns demonstrate the importance of the issue.
2. Please share the link with your networks.

Upcoming Events

Lung Cancer Conference - Adelaide, SA 19 - 21 February 2025.

Australia's largest multi-disciplinary lung cancer conference brings together health care professionals from across the continuum of care. [Find out more.](#)

On International Rare Disease Day, 28 February InGeNA will be presenting at the GSNV **Event in Melbourne** to look back on the past 25 years of the 21st century and explore the opportunities ahead for the next 25. [Register now](#)

Australian Precision Oncology Symposium 2025 - Sydney

APOS 25: The Coming of Age of Precision Oncology

Showcasing a pivotal moment in cancer care, as precision oncology moves from theory to transformative practice. Designed for Australian oncology professionals—including oncologists, researchers, pathologists, and members of the life science and advocacy sectors. **Friday, 7 March 2025: 1pm – 5:30pm** followed by the symposium dinner

Saturday, 8 March 2025: 9am – 2:30pm

[Click here to register for in-person attendance](#)

[Click here to register for virtual attendance](#)

Kosi Challenge - 14th and 15th March 2025

Take on Australia's highest mountain, Mt Kosciuszko, for those diagnosed with rare, less common or complex cancer. [Register](#)

Genomics 'InSPiRD' Showcase - Thursday, May 29 - Brisbane

Join the QLD Health Genomics Showcase "InSPiRD" to explore cutting-edge genomics research collaborations! [Book Tickets](#)

Online Seminars

Queensland Health Office of Research
& Innovation present:

Genomics Online Seminar Series

This online event on **Monday, 24th
February 2025**, from **4:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

[Register here](#). With **Dr Jenna Nunn**, (UQ):
ZERO Childhood Cancer Initiative - 'Increase
workforce capacity and enhance the
integration of genomics into Paediatric
Oncology Practice', and **A/Prof Aideen
McInerney-Leo**, (UQ): Evaluating the
Familial Melanoma Clinic as a Model of Care

Australian Genomics' DNA dialogue
seminar series return this month!

Wednesday 26 February at 4pm (AEDT)

on "The evolving landscape of genomic
diagnostics for rare diseases, and insights
for population screening in the Middle
East" featuring Dr [Ahmad Abou Tayoun](#),
PhD, FACMG from the Mohammed Bin
Rashid University of Medicine and Health
Sciences. Register here:

<https://lnkd.in/gKMswAbQ>

Industry News

Citizen Jury to evaluate if we should have newborn DNA sequencing for every baby in Australia

Newborn bloodspot screening to detect babies at risk of health conditions and to intervene early.

[Read more here](#)

JP Morgan 2025 In Review: Resilience Matters

There are several areas on the radar worth highlighting within the healthcare sector subclassifications per analysts.

[Read more here](#)

Advancing genomic-led cancer care in Australia

Report by Rare Cancers Australia and Australian Genomics - February 2025.

[Read more here](#)

First gene-editing therapy for sickle cell disease approved by FDA.

Now two approved stem cell therapies that can cure sickle cell disease.

[Read more here](#)

Opportunities - 2025

Applications now open for the Summer Internship for Indigenous Peoples in Genomics “SING” Australia

InGeNA is a partner and sponsor of [SING Australia](#) to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants from varied backgrounds (e.g. community, professionals, students, researchers) to participate in a week-long workshop and mentoring program that covers technical and laboratory skills in genomics. **SING 2025 will take place in Gimuy/Cairns from 21-25 July 2025.**

The SING Australia Program is intended to be a multi-disciplinary experience. If you are interested in learning about genomic research and its implications for Indigenous people and communities.

How to Apply: Please email your CV and why you are interested in attending the workshop to singausinfo@gmail.com **Applications close 28 February.**

Please note, existing knowledge of genetics and genomics is not required to participate in the workshop. Flights, accommodation, and all meals are provided for workshop participants. For any questions, please email singausinfo@gmail.com

Individual Memberships now open

Individuals who are sole traders, researchers or students, can now join InGeNA. Individual Membership Brochure and Application form available on our [Website](#).



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