



THE UNITED INDUSTRY VOICE FOR AUSTRALIAN GENOMICS

March 2025

Message from the CEO

As we move through the first quarter of the year, I want to take a moment to reflect on some key events and opportunities shaping our work at InGeNA.

On **Rare Disease Day**, I had the privilege of speaking on a panel alongside our **Consumer Advisory Group (CAG) members**, hosted by our CAG Chair **Monica Ferrie**. The discussion underscored the critical role of genomics and precision medicine in transforming outcomes for patients with rare diseases. It was a rich discussion about the whole of life experience of people and their families living with rare diseases and how this changes at different stages. The role of industry working in a trusted way with consumers and clinicians is so important. Thank you to GSNV for hosting and inviting us to participate in this discussion.

In Sydney, I joined the **Oncology Industry Taskforce** for its first meeting of 2025 as a guest speaker. I shared InGeNA's vision for driving change in **precision oncology** - where innovative, personalised medicine can deliver better outcomes for patients. Now is the time to ensure rapid, predictable, and equitable access to world-class cancer treatments.

💡 **Partnerships between industry and government have never been more important.** At InGeNA, we are committed to working with key stakeholders to shape policies and funding settings that reflect the full value of these innovations. A huge thank you to co-chairs **Heather Cahill** and **Katrina Vanin** for the opportunity to engage with industry leaders, and to **Sarojini Balkrishna** for hosting us. The discussion was highly engaged, and we look forward to continuing these critical conversations.

Congratulations to **Omico** for the outstanding delivery of **APOS2025**! With strong industry participation and sponsorship, it was a fantastic event. Unfortunately, **Cyclone Alfred** prevented me from attending in person, but I look forward to reconnecting with many of you soon.

A quick reminder: **Consultation for the Genetic Discrimination Bill closes on 12 March.** InGeNA has co-signed the submission led by **Jane Tiller**, who has worked

closely with legal experts on this issue. If you would like to be a co-signatory, please see details below.

As we await the announcement of the **federal election**, it's great to see continued support for **precision oncology programs** through Omico. We are advocating for **Comprehensive Genomic Profiling (CGP) to become standard clinical care**, ensuring that all Australians have access to the benefits of precision medicine.

A big welcome to our newest partner QUT Centre for Genomics and Precision Medicine. They have NATA accredited labs providing the testing for Omico in Qld and outstanding translational research programs. Read more below.

Finally, I hope you have all stayed safe following the tropical cyclone.

I look forward to catching up with many of you soon - I will be in **Melbourne from 19–21 March** for meetings and an **InGeNA networking event**. I'd love to see our members and friends there!

Until next time,
Erin
CEO, InGeNA



Above: Oncology Industry Taskforce

Right: Rare Disease Day



Message from the Chair

Dear Members and friends of InGeNA,

We are pleased to welcome new member-elected directors, **Jessica Poy** from **AGRF** and **Oliver Bonaccorso** from **Johnson & Johnson** to our board. They bring wide ranging experience and great enthusiasm which you can read in their profiles.

We look forward to their insights and leadership in the coming months.

Regards,
Carl



Show your support for the Ban on Genetic Discrimination in Life Insurance

InGeNA has added our name as a signatory to Jane Tiller's submission to the Treasury. **How to Add Your Endorsement:**

- Sign your name: Please add your name to the Google spreadsheet: [Google Spreadsheet Link](#).
- Include your logo (optional): If you would like your organisation's logo included, please email it to Jane's colleague Adam at adam.brotchie@monash.edu. If logo approval is challenging but you still wish to sign, you are welcome to add just your name to the spreadsheet.
- Share with others: Feel free to share this email, the submission, and the spreadsheet with other organisations that may also wish to sign.

To ensure we provide the strongest possible submission, please sign [the spreadsheet](#) and send your logo by **5 PM (AEDT) on Tuesday, 11 March 2025**. The Treasury submission deadline is 12 March 2025.

Upcoming Events

Kosi Challenge

Take on Australia's highest mountain, Mount Kosciuszko, for those diagnosed with rare, less common or complex cancer. Join RCA's premier event.

14th and 15th March 2025

[Register](#)



Friday, March 21 - 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Power Up Your Multi-Omic Discoveries | Next Gen Olink® Proteomics

Brisbane Seminar hosted by AGRF Ltd  **Translational Research Institute Australia**, (In-person and live-stream options available)

* To register, please follow the link: <https://lnkd.in/gEkfv6Tz>

Thursday, May 29

Genomics 'InSPiRD' Showcase

Join us at the Office of Research and Innovation Genomics Showcase "InSPiRD" to explore cutting-edge genomics research collaborations! [Book Tickets](#)





InGeNA welcomes QUT's Centre for Genomics & Personalised Health as our newest associate member.

The QUT Centre for Genomics and Personalised Health aims to improve human health by discovering better methods of diagnosing disease, developing targeted treatments based on genetics, and training the next generation of translational genomics scientists.

Their research spans the design, development, and application of methods for genomic discovery, analysis and translation to advance genomics-driven healthcare and drive outcomes in the real world of clinical and personalised health.

InGeNA is excited to partner with one of Australia's leading genomics research centres and looks forward to a fruitful future working together to further our industry.

Read more here: [website](#).

Industry News

How much do we need to spend on genomic testing?

Investment in research has led to subsidised genomic tests for Australians. This analysis examines test utilisation and MBS funding, providing insights that could inform future investment.

[Read more here](#)

Embedding Genomic Research in Cancer Clinical Trials

A significant step forward in cancer research and care - establishing the Cancer Genomics Clinical Trials Fund to drive advancements in genomic medicine and ensure equitable access to cancer clinical trials incorporating genomics.

[Read more here](#)

Is Personalised Gene Therapy Ready for Prime Time?

Adopting a personalised, precision medicine approach to treating genetic rare diseases is essential to upholding the noble ambition of universal access to healthcare for all Australians. Gene therapy using clinically validated delivery vehicles and gene modulators makes it possible to do so.

Our member Laura Issa has written this 2-part series.

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

RACGP calls for greater access to genetic testing carrier screening

Research emphasises that when GPs have access to specialist support through genetic counselling it gives them confidence to incorporate the offer of carrier screening into their practice.

[Read more here](#)

Securing the future of precision medicine for a cancer-free future

The Australian Government is investing \$143.4 million to extend two world-leading precision medicine programs for children and adults with cancer, so that more Australians can benefit from the latest in scientific and clinical understanding.

[Read more here](#)

InGeNA partner Omico has launched a new podcast series.

[Cancer Meets its Match](#), aimed at assisting those living with difficult cancers by spreading clear information and support from some of the industry's leading experts.

We thank **Omico**, **Professor David Thomas**, and **Dr Damien Kee** for their dedication to spreading awareness of genomics and its transformative potential.

Follow [InGeNA](#) to stay updated on the latest in genomics innovation and industry advancements.

Opportunities - 2025

Opportunity to sponsor a Genomics networking event

We have an opportunity to sponsor a **networking event** at the end of the day following Queensland Health's Office of Research and Innovation (ORI) upcoming **QH ORI Genomics Forum** on **Thursday, 29 May 2025**.

The Forum will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre and features the **InSPiRD Showcase** - a state-wide initiative aimed at fostering collaboration between clinicians, researchers, academia, and industry. Their goal is to accelerate the translation of genomics research into clinical practice, ultimately improving patient outcomes. This partnership between the state health department and industry highlights the power of collaboration in driving innovation.

If you are interested in sponsoring or would like more information, please get in touch with us, at info@ingena.org.au and InGeNA will facilitate arrangements.

Call for Nominations

Call for nominations for the Gene Technology Advisory Committees

- Nominations for the 2026-29 membership of the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee (GTTAC) and the Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee (GTECCC) are sought from suitably qualified individuals.
- Committee members are appointed by the Commonwealth Minister responsible for gene technology to provide advice to the Gene Technology Regulator and the Gene Technology Ministers' Meeting.
- Further information is available through the Department of Health and Aged Care's [recruitment portal](#) or by contacting the OGTR directly:
Email: ogtr@health.gov.au | Telephone: 1800 181 030
- Nominations are to be lodged through the [recruitment portal](#)
- Closes **14 March 2025**.

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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