



THE UNITED INDUSTRY VOICE FOR AUSTRALIAN GENOMICS

Message from the CEO

18 February 2026

Dear members and friends,

Every conversation we are having across the ecosystem reflects the same sentiment: 2026 has begun with pace, focus and real momentum for genomics and precision medicine in Australia. At InGeNA, our working groups have moved quickly into activation mode. The question guiding us is simple but ambitious: *how do we collectively shift the dial this year?*

Pre-Budget submission

InGeNA submitted its pre-Budget submission, calling for Comprehensive Genomic Profiling at diagnosis for all cancer patients by 2030. This is not just about expanding testing. This ambition is grounded in practicality. If we are serious about equitable access to precision medicine, we must build the enabling foundations now.

Scaling genomics is not only about expanding access. It is about doing it intelligently, sustainably and in a way that genuinely benefits patients and clinicians. It is about building the foundations for scale. Efficient ordering and reporting pathways. Timely access to emerging tests. Systems that genuinely support clinicians and deliver better outcomes for patients.

We continue to advocate for strong horizon scanning capability so Australia can anticipate what is coming through the pipeline and invest strategically. You can view our full submission via this [link](#) or find all our submissions on our Website.

New Consumer Partners

Consumer partnership remains core to InGeNA's identity and way of working. We are delighted to welcome Sandy Minck, Emma Bosner and Joel Taggart to our Consumer Advisory Group. Mary Dever and Rosiel Elwyin join our Review and Reference Group, alongside former CAG members Julie Cini, Felicity Johnson and Agnes Nswofa. Their lived experience, expertise and commitment strengthen our

advocacy and ensure our work remains grounded in real-world impact.

Events across the ecosystem

This week we are participating in a health economics workshop advancing bilateral discussions between Canada and Australia. Canada has strengthened its HTA processes to enable more timely patient access, and we are keen to explore what lessons can inform our own system reforms.

I am honoured to join the *Rare Disease Day* panel on Feb 27, hosted by Genetic Support Network Victoria, chaired by our Consumer Advisory Group Chair and Board Director, Monica Ferrie. You can view more details on the Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide events in our Partner News section below.

On the industry front, I will be chairing a session at the *Cell and Gene Therapy Summit* in partnership with ARCS Australia and DIA - Feb 25. This session will bring together national and international leaders to explore how we advance both capability and equitable access in Australia's evolving cell and gene therapy landscape. These conversations are critical if we are to bridge innovation and sustainable delivery.

I will be attending the *PTA Congress26* event in May. A big thanks to the PTA team for extending their member early bird rate to InGeNA members during February - see registration links and more details in the Events section below.

Across the year we are shaping additional initiatives with partners to accelerate mainstream adoption of genomics into clinical care. We see enormous opportunity in aligning industry insight, clinical leadership, consumer voice and government reform efforts. If you would like to collaborate with us on upcoming initiatives, please reach out.

We also encourage you to engage with partner events including *APOS* by Omico and the *Annual Kosi Challenge* by Rare Cancers Australia. These initiatives reflect the strength and diversity of our ecosystem.

2026 is shaping as an inflection point year. With aligned leadership across consumers, clinicians, industry and government, we have a genuine opportunity to embed genomics where it belongs – as routine, equitable, patient-centred care. Thank you for being part of this movement.

Erin Evans
CEO, InGeNA

InGeNA Members and Partners News

There are events for Rare Disease Day being held across various states: some event

details in Victoria and NSW follow.

This **Rare Disease Day, the GSNV** (Genetic Support Network of Victoria) **is hosting a panel event @MCRI, Cox Room Level 5 Parkville VIC on Friday 27 February**

Bringing together people living with rare disease, families, clinicians, researchers and system leaders to share insights and perspectives of what a co-designed Australian rare disease health system must look like by 2036.

Together, we will examine how advances in genomics, AI and digital health can improve diagnostic journeys, mental wellbeing and long-term care while ensuring the patient voice remains centred in every decision.

Featuring our keynote panel:

- Sarah Powell, CEO Inherited Cancers Australia
- Dr. Erin Evans, CEO InGeNA
- A/Prof Ali Archibald, Genetic Counsellor and Chief Clinical Officer GenoCare
- Maya Pinn, Lived Experience Advocate, Syndromes Without A Name
- A/Prof Danya Vears, Social Scientist and Ethics Researcher MCRI/Deakin University.

Register to join this free, in-person event offering opportunity to network amongst our rare disease community and drive what comes next.

In Sydney **Rare Diseases NSW, Genetic Alliance Australia, and Belongsid Families**, are delighted to invite you to **Rare Disease Day 2026: Care Connect Cure**.

A special multi-day event bringing together people living with rare disease, families, clinicians, researchers, students and partners from across NSW and beyond.

-  **Where:** UNSW Health Translation Hub, Randwick Health & Innovation Precinct
-  **When:** 27–28 February 2026
-  **How:** In-person and online
-  **Cost:** Free to attend
-  **Register:** via [Humantix](#)

We welcome keynote speaker - **Rachael Callander**, followed by a practical and reflective masterclass for healthcare professionals and families.

We are also pleased to announce **Professor Krister Westlye Fjermestad**, visiting from Norway, will present on the **SIBS intervention** and its role in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of siblings of children living with chronic and rare diseases.

To help reduce barriers to attending in person, **travel bursaries are available for people living in rural and regional NSW**, including people living with a rare disease, parents, carers and family members, and healthcare professionals. If distance has previously made it difficult for you to attend events like this, we strongly encourage you to apply.

-  [Register for the event.](#)
-  [Find out more about travel bursaries.](#)



This March 13th & 14th many of our members will be taking on the **Mount Kosciuszko Challenge**, hiking 21km to support Rare Cancers Australia. If you'd like to help fundraise for **[Rare Cancers Australia](#)** and the great work they do, please click the link for a tax-deductable **[donation!](#)**



Rhythm Biosciences has enrolled the first physician participant in the ColoSTAT® Access Program, marking the transition from clinical development into structured commercial deployment. Read the ASX **[announcement](#)**

Industry News

11.11.25 On the Cusp of a Cure - Asia Pacific's readiness for the Precision Era - curative therapies tailored to individuals and their disease.

23.01.26 NHS England to develop 'world-first' database for genes linked to cancer

04.02.26 Variant interpretation training for the genomics era: Learning outcomes to inform professional competencies and education

08.02.26 Should Australia DNA test every newborn?

10.02.26 Why public access to a life-changing cancer treatment is 'on a knife edge'

Upcoming Events

Cell & Gene Summit 25 Feb 2026

An Australia–global dialogue on delivery of advanced therapies. [Registrations](#) now open. Program now available.

Measuring Impact in Healthcare Thursday, March 5, 2026

(9am-4.30pm) @ Rydges, Sydney Central

SIMNA and HTANALYSTS interactive one-day course is designed for busy healthcare professionals. This workshop provides practical tools to measure impact and build sustainable frameworks for long-term success. [Register](#)

APOS 26 6-7 March 2026, UNSW

Mainstreaming Precision Oncology: Transforming Care Through Science, Medicine and Equity. [Register](#)

PTA-C/26 Sydney | 27–28 May 2026

Brings clinicians, policymakers, researchers, patient advocates and industry together to explore practical pathways toward a more predictive, preventative and personalised healthcare system.

****SPECIAL OFFER FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY**** we are pleased to invite other members of your cohort to take advantage of the PTA Member Earlybird rate at registration. www.ptacongress.com

International Events

The 49th [HGSA Annual Scientific Meeting](#) on 1-4 August 2026 at Te Pae, Christchurch New Zealand. Early Bird Registration opens – February 2026

Opportunities

The Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is seeking your views on the Medical Research Future Fund Research Missions program.

 Why your views matter

Participation in this survey will provide valuable insights into the impact and effectiveness of the MRFF Research Missions program. This is your opportunity to help shape the future direction of the program and its funding investments.

Have your say on the MRFF Research Missions program by Friday, 27 February 2026:

 [Link](#)

[Join InGeNA NOW!](#)

New Membership options and partnering opportunities

Find out more with our Membership Brochures and online

Application forms [here](#)



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