



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health**

Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

**Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee**  
**Meeting of 29 March 2017**  
**Communiqué**

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***This Communiqué covers matters considered at the 9th meeting of the Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee (29 March 2017, Canberra)***

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### **Background**

The Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee (GTECCC) is a statutory advisory committee established under the *Gene Technology Act 2000* to provide advice on the request of the Gene Technology Regulator (Regulator) or the Legislative and Governance Forum on Gene Technology, on issues of ethical or community concern relating to gene technology.

The purpose of this Communiqué is to provide a brief overview of the key matters considered by GTECCC and resolutions of the Committee at its meeting on 29 March 2017.

### **New Appointment**

GTECCC welcomed new member Professor Dianne Nicol, who has been appointed as the cross-member with the National Health and Medical Research Council's Australian Health Ethics Committee (AHEC). Professor Nicol was appointed in December 2016 by the Assistant Minister for Rural Health, the Hon Dr David Gillespie MP.

### **GTECCC Work Plan**

GTECCC considered the Committee's work plan that was developed following the GTECCC meeting of 20 July 2016, and discussed work priorities including:

#### New technologies

Members discussed new technologies and gene drives and possible work for the committee in this area. GTECCC advised that ethical considerations would be different for different applications of the technologies, such as health, agriculture and the environment. GTECCC requested background information be provided ahead of any specific requests for advice from the Regulator.

#### Information aimed at teachers and students

Members discussed how the education sector could be provided with information about gene technology and how it is regulated, including conditions schools are required to meet when doing experiments.

### Involvement in the review of the gene technology legislation

GTECCC was provided with updates on the Regulator's technical review of the Gene Technology Regulations 2001, and the broader review of the gene technology regulatory scheme, which is being coordinated by the Department of Health. GTECCC confirmed support for the Committee's involvement in the review of the scheme if requested.

**Resolution:** GTECCC endorsed the Work Plan for the Committee.

### **OGTR Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy**

GTECCC were asked to provide input to a draft outline for an OGTR Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. Members provided a number of suggestions for the Regulator and OGTR to consider in the development of the strategy, including around the audience for the document, the pros and cons of engaging in social media, and key messages that should continue to be communicated relating to the profile of the Regulator.

### **Information Items and Reports**

GTECCC was provided a presentation outlining the draft [National Health Genomics Policy Framework](#) from a representative of the Department of Health, and reports from the cross-members with the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee and AHEC. GTECCC also received a report from the Regulator on recent activities of the OGTR.

**For all inquiries, please call the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator on 1800 181 030 (free-call) or email [ogtr@health.gov.au](mailto:ogtr@health.gov.au)**