



Communiqué from the Human Genetics Advisory Committee (HGAC) 3rd Meeting – 8-9 June 2006

Day 1 of the meeting provided an opportunity for the HGAC to engage with stakeholders at a Consultative Workshop. The aim of the workshop was to introduce the members of the HGAC, explain the forward work program for the committee and to ask the stakeholders present their views on the priorities for the HGAC. A consultative model was presented that would allow the HGAC to continue an ongoing dialogue and consultation with the broader Community.

Day 2 the meeting involved the HGAC discussing the outcomes of the workshop. It was agreed to continue developing a suitable model for a consultative group, and once drafted this would be sent to stakeholders, including those present at the workshop. The four HGAC Working Groups presented a report on progress for each group:

Industry and Commercialisation Working Group

- will work with the Insurance groups through IFSA to discuss progress with implementation of the *Essentially Yours* recommendations, and
- will meet with the insurance industry to review “plain language” forms used by those seeking to take out insurance.

Communication and Education Working Group

- is progressing education issues e.g. the inclusion of human genetics in the curriculum for medical undergraduates in consultation with Medical School Deans,
- has initiated discussion with Biotechnology Australia to explore wider interactions with the HGAC.

Health Delivery, Technical and Research Working Group

- continued progression on the issue of developing a National Genetics Services and the possibility of developing other test streams in parallel with cancer tests as a pilot.
- Will meet with NATA in the near future to review various *Essentially Yours* recommendations directed to that organisation

Ethical Legal and Social Issues Working Group

- will progress the development of policy on the issue of DNA databases in the employment setting
- will seek from HGAC members priorities re *Essentially Yours* recommendations

A draft HGAC Communication Strategy was considered. It was agreed that this would be a work in progress. Members discussed ways to engage with the wider community and the media.

Members discussed the 4th HGAC meeting in August 2006 which will coincide with the International Congress of Human Genetics in Brisbane.

Professor Peter Fricker, Director of the Australian Institute of Sport, made a presentation to members on the implications of *Genetics in Sports*.