Stakeholder engagement for the development of the new National Health Genomics Policy Framework

Information Bulletin

October 2024

Background

In 2017, the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council's Hospitals Principal Committee developed the first National Health Genomic Policy Framework 2018–2021 (the lapsed Framework) with input from a jurisdictional advisory committee. The lapsed Framework sought to present a national vision for genomics in the Australian health system to ensure appropriate and equitable access and use.[1]

Five strategic priorities were outlined in the lapsed Framework as follows:

1. Delivering high-quality care for people through a person-centred approach to integrating genomics into healthcare
2. Building a skilled workforce that is literate in genomics
3. Ensuring sustainable and strategic investment in cost-effective genomics
4. Maximising quality, safety, and clinical utility of genomics in healthcare
5. Responsible collection, storage, use and management of genomic data.

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the implementation of the lapsed Framework in 2020. Despite this, much work has been done in Australia since the Framework's development in 2017. The Department is now reviewing the lapsed Framework to develop an updated **National Health Genomic Policy Framework** (the New Framework), scheduled for completion in June 2025.

Purpose

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the Department) has engaged Healthcare Management Advisors (HMA) in collaboration with KordaMentha to undertake consultations with non-government stakeholders to inform the development of the New Framework.

Consultation will focus on how stakeholders engage with health genomics, existing barriers to engagement (access, awareness, funding, patient preference, etc.) and key priorities in health genomics for the near future.

Consultation will occur in **October 2024** and may include one-on-one virtual interviews, virtual focus groups or written feedback.

HMA/KordaMentha will also support the Department in developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the New National Health Genomic Policy Framework once developed.

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[1] Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council, "National Health Genomics Policy Framework 2018-2021," Commonwealth of Australia as represented by the Department of Health, Canberra, 2017