

Australia to establish national body for genomics research

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The Albanese Government is establishing a new national body to provide leadership, coordination and expertise so all Australians can reap the benefits of cutting-edge genomic research and technologies. Genomics Australia will help fight cancers, rare diseases and deliver better health outcomes for Australians.

Its focus will be on turning significant breakthroughs in genomic research into the everyday care that patients receive. One of Genomics Australia's first priorities will be to improve access to personalised cancer care.

Genomics Australia will work with states and territories to implement an updated National Health Genomics Policy Framework. It will be a body within the Department of Health and Aged Care, with a Commissioner who will provide expert advice to Government on health genomics.

This model for Genomics Australia has been informed by advice from experts, as well as states and territories. The Commissioner will be supported by expert advisory committees. These committees will comprise researchers, clinicians, industry, consumers and First Nations people.

The Australian Government has committed ongoing funding for Genomics Australia, including over \$30 million for its first four years of operation.

Over \$45 million has been provided to Australian Genomics since 2015 to support government-funded genomic research projects and to promote the equitable and appropriate application of genomics in healthcare.