



## **HUMAN GENETICS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA**

ARBN. 076 130 937 (Incorporated Under the Associations Incorporation Act)

The liability of members is limited

RACP, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

Telephone: 02 9669 6602 Fax: 02 9669 6607

Email: secretariat@hgasa.org.au

All correspondence to: PO Box 6012, Alexandria, NSW 2015

ABN No. 17 076 130 937

## **Guidance**

### **The HGSA's role in Genetics and Genomics Education**

<b>Title</b>	<b>2018GD02</b>
<b>Document Number</b>	<b>August 2018</b>
<b>Publication Date</b>	<b>2008 GD02</b>
<b>Replaces</b>	<b>May 2022</b>
<b>Review Date</b>	

The Human Genetics Society of Australasia, acting through its federal body or through the agency of its branches, aims to advance human genetics best practice and education for professionals and the wider community\*.

*\*Communities or community is a term used in this document in the broadest sense and may refer to health professionals, special interest groups, consumers, the international community, etc.*

According to its constitution, the Society aims to:

- promote and facilitate training and professional recognition for persons involved in human genetics;
- foster professional and non-expert education in human genetics; and
- promote public awareness and understanding of human genetics.

Education and training within the Society is conducted through its branches, special interest groups, committees, events and conferences. Through its Boards of Censors, the Society develops guidelines for the training and continuing education for members in the fields of genetic counselling and diagnostic genomics, and recommends certification for those who meet the requisite standards.

#### **Education, Ethics and Social Issues Committee (EESIC)**

The Society's Education, Ethics and Social Issues Committee (EESIC) includes HGSA members with genetics- and genomics-related expertise in areas of academic professional education, community education, ethical issues, psychosocial issues, clinical genetics, genetic counselling and consumer representation.

One of EESIC's key roles is to anticipate, identify and respond to relevant issues in human genetics and genomics about which the HGSA may be expected to have expert knowledge to contribute to community debate and policy formation. EESIC promotes professional and community engagement with ethical and social issues in human genetics and genomics both within and outside the HGSA.

## **Within HGSA**

Where opportunities arise, the Committee, or members of the Committee, may:

- Review and/or develop policies and guidelines and provide expert advice and guidance to the HGSA on the educational, ethical and social issues associated with human genetics and genomics
- Promote engagement around genetics and genomics education and ethical issues -- and awareness of related resources and activities -- to members at the HGSA Annual Scientific Meeting
- Provide advice on design and assessment for relevant education, ethical and social issues training programs offered by the HGSA
- Develop and review HGSA policy statements relating to HGSA member and public education, ethical and social issues in genetics and genomics.

## **Outside HGSA**

Where opportunities arise, EESIC's members may provide expert advice, specialist input and exchange of information to develop and/or deliver public engagement initiatives for relevant audiences including:

### **1. Public**

Recognise the importance of human genetics education and engagement, including ethical and social issues, for society as a whole, including contributing to public education in human genetics.

### **2. Government, College and/or Professional Bodies**

Seek opportunities to promote genetic literacy in government and actively contribute to government consultations regarding ethical, psychosocial and educational issues in genetics.

### **3. School Education**

Seek opportunities to participate in and/or facilitate genetics and genomics educational programs, including engagement with ethical and psychosocial issues. Encourage curriculum developments for human genetics to be included in a range of subjects offered at the junior and senior levels across science and humanities.

### **4. Tertiary and Continuing Professional Education**

Provide advice on competencies, curriculum design and assessment for relevant education, ethical and social issues training programs offered by other organisations and/or institutions. The action of the Society in this regard is complementary to other existing national and state-based human genetics-focused education programs and courses.

## **CONTACT:**

Human Genetics Society of Australasia secretariat  
Phone. +61 (0)2 9669 6602. Fax. +61 (0)2 9669 6607  
[secretariat@hgasa.org.au](mailto:secretariat@hgasa.org.au)