

I am astounded that any patent office anywhere should see fit to grant a patent on a gene. A gene is a body part like the brain, the liver, the heart or a red cell. How in all conscience can anyone patent a gene, hold a monopoly and make money from it?

It is conceivable that a new method of measuring the activity of a gene might be patentable but not such that it excludes others from measuring the gene activity by another means.

I wish the Senate well in solving this thorny problem, started, it would seem, by others outside Australia. Legislation should be amended to ensure free access to all genes some of which are vital to the health and welfare of Australians.

Yours truly,  
Michael Partington