



31st March 2009

The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary – Senate Community Affairs Committee,

Re: Inquiry into Gene Patents

Further to Genetic Technologies Ltd submission of 19th March 2009.

I wish to bring attention to the Committee of a very pertinent series of articles (and references therein) addressing the issue of gene of gene patents. These were published by the premier scientific journal Nature on the 26th March 2009.

Editorial: *Nature* **458**, 385 (26 March 2009) | doi:10.1038/458386a; Published online 25 March 2009
Property rights: The granting of patents on human genes has so far not been the disaster it was predicted to be. Web Link <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v458/n7237/full/458386a.html>

These articles present evidence that in the United States, genetic tests from companies with exclusive licensing rights are no more expensive or harder to access than those offered by various providers under non-exclusive license and that there is no empirical evidence to suggest that companies are quashing innovation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank A Firgaira".

Dr Frank A Firgaira
PhD, FHGSA (Molecular Genetics)
Chief Genetic Scientist
Genetic Technologies Limited