

Sent: Tuesday, 11 August 2009 6:37 PM

Subject: RE: gene patent story from Belinda Coyte 11.8.09

Hi Jane

Last week I spoke to a research scientist (phD) who is doing gene research at the Victor Chang Institute. I asked how she thought that gene testing could be improved in Australia so better for patients.

She said if more money was paid for more researchers (scientists) then they would be able to do gene testing for similar prices in Australia and get results in 6-8 weeks as in USA.

She said Melbourne researchers can do the long QT as already are but need to have funding for more people to do this so can be faster for results.

Also the Westmead Hospital in Sydney where the Marfans and other connective tissue diseases etc are done, if the government paid for more gene researchers or scientists who can do the gene testing there then will get quicker results for the same cost.

She also said she agrees it is best to avoid gene patents in future to keep the tests more affordable and also so more places can do the testing which also gives faster results.

Please give this information to Senator Bill Heffernan and also if it can be added to the enquiry

Thankyou
Dr Belinda Coyte