

I wish to express my concern at the proposed granting of patents in Australia over human and microbial genes and non-coding sequences, proteins, and their derivatives, including those materials in an isolated form.

There is no denying the moral implications of this proposal. It is yet another step towards private ownership of what should be public property. It should not be possible to patent genes which are not the product of human invention but are naturally occurring entities. There is no reason for patenting except for private profit. Patenting would open research and manipulation of genetic material to the pursuit of profit rather than for public good. Genetic research and medical applications would then be limited by costs of using patented material and would be accessible only to large private companies wealthy institutions or wealthy individuals

It should be a function of government to protect that information which is intrinsic and has been discovered rather than invented. Research and knowledge which can be used for the good of the community should be kept publicly accessible.

The *Patents Act 1990* should be amended so as to expressly prohibit the granting of patent monopolies over such materials.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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