



Media release

22 September 2011

Senate Report delivers right outcome for Australia

AusBiotech is delighted that the Report of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee Inquiry into the Patent Amendment (Human Genes & Biological Materials) Bill 2010, tabled in the Senate last night has agreed with AusBiotech's view, recommending that the Bill should be rejected.

Tireless advocate, AusBiotech CEO, Dr Anna Lavelle, has welcomed the Committee's finding and said: "This is the right outcome for patients, researchers and for innovation in this country. I now call on the Senate to abandon the Bill, as recommended."

Significantly, the 124-page Committee Report had only one recommendation, which is: "The committee recommends that the Senate should not pass the Bill."

There have been five Australian inquiries in recent years into patentable subject matter and each has consistently recommended that excluding specific subject matter from patentability is not the right option.

AusBiotech has been a high-profile advocate in the Committee's review of the Human Genes & Biological Materials Bill, having made a substantive submission and given evidence at the Senate Committee hearings, held in Canberra in April 2011 that the proposed Bill fails completely to address any of the valid concerns raised by the community about gene patents and should be rejected.

Dr Lavelle has maintained that: "The Bill does not serve the interests of patients, researchers or industry, and in fact, the Bill threatens the very foundations of scientific research and development of biological therapies and other technologies which are built on patents."

In this view, AusBiotech is aligned with an overwhelming two-thirds majority of the 122 submissions made to the Senate Inquiry.

Dr Lavelle said: "AusBiotech supports the Government's 'Raising the Bar' Bill and urges Parliament to support a bill that will guarantee improvements to intellectual property management in Australia."

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For comment or an interview with Dr Lavelle, please contact Lorraine Chiroiu, AusBiotech's Communications Manager on. 03 9828 1414 / 0429 801 118 or at lchiroiu@ausbiotech.org

About AusBiotech

AusBiotech is Australia's voice on biotechnology, and represents more than 3,000 members, encompassing medicines, medical diagnostics and devices, agriculture, alternative fuels and climate change.