

Media release



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Call for calm in gene patent debate

As the gene patenting debate hits a new level, Australia's biotechnology industry organisation is calling for calm and considered thought on the issues at stake. AusBiotech supports access for patients to life-changing medical tests, therapies and devices and for a research exemption to patent infringement, and believes the complex debate is being conducted with incomplete information.

AusBiotech is deeply concerned that some of views being expressed are founded on incomplete information. Patents drive and facilitate innovation, giving us social and economic benefits, including the development of new diagnostic tests based on genes. These pursuits will be impacted in an unintended manner if the fundamental changes to the Patents Act that are being called for are allowed to proceed.

Without losing sight of the public concerns being expressed, AusBiotech is suggesting a solution that, with care to include all relevant stakeholders, can deliver the outcomes being sought in a manner that gives certainty to the public and to the research community alike - and will not destabilise Australia's medical sciences and biotechnology sectors.

AusBiotech represents Australia's biotechnology interests that deliver research and development in the value chain from basic research to the delivery of new medicines, diagnostics, medical devices and solutions for agriculture and climate change.

AusBiotech will today and during this week be meeting with members of parliament who are active in the debate and will to bring an important perspective to the discussion. AusBiotech is available to provide detailed comment.

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.

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