

Human Genetics Society of Australasia Limited

Dr Sean Turner
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Dear Dr Turner

SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE ECONOMICS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Inquiry into the Treasury Laws Amendment (Genetic Testing Protections in Life Insurance and Other Measures) Bill 2025

The Human Genetics Society of Australasia (HGSA) strongly supports the Treasury Laws Amendment (Genetic Testing Protections in Life Insurance and Other Measures) Bill 2025 (the Bill).

As the peak professional body for genetics health professionals in Australia and New Zealand, HGSA represents over 1500 individuals working across clinical genetics, genetic counselling, laboratory and diagnostic services, genetic health research, education and policy.

HGSA supports the Bill's provisions to prohibit life insurers from soliciting or using genetic test results to discriminate against individuals when making underwriting decisions. This legal reform is essential for improving prevention, care and treatment pathways for individuals and their families.

The HGSA supports the provisions in the Bill that allow an individual to voluntarily share their genetic test result to demonstrate they do not have the increased risk of particular health concerns that may be present for other family members.

The proposed amendments set out in the Bill remove concerns around insurance arrangements and support individuals and their families to approach genetic testing with increased confidence.

<p>Chief Executive Officer: Julia Mansour Chief Operations Officer: Lauren Hunt</p> <p>PRESIDENT Sebastian Lunke PRESIDENT ELECT Danya Vears</p>	<p>5/85 Bourke Road, Alexandria, NSW 2015 Australia Telephone 02 9669 6602 Fax 02 9669 6607 secretariat@hgsa.org.au www.hgsa.org.au ABN 17 076 130 937 ACN 675 684 616</p> <p>All correspondence to PO Box 6012, Alexandria, NSW 2015</p>
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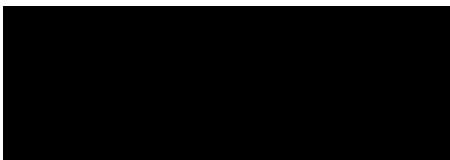


Genetic testing for a predisposition to health concerns provides people with the opportunity to:

1. Take proactive steps to manage their health and reduce their risk of future illness: such as enhanced surveillance to support early detection of illness; or preventative measures to reduce risk; and
2. Make informed decisions about reproductive health options, including the option of not passing on a genetic condition.

The HGSA welcomes the amendments outlined in the Bill. The HGSA understands that this Bill does not provide retrospective review of existing insurance policies and notes that this may translate to a degree of ongoing disadvantage for some people. However, passage of this Bill will create significant relief for individuals and their families into the future, allowing them to focus on their health management without fear of financial penalties in relation to insurance.

Yours Sincerely



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