

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018, 29 & 30 May 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000762

OUTCOME: 5 - Regulation, Safety and Protection

Topic: Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Rice, Janet

Question:

The Gene Technology Regulations 2001 state that “a disclosure under this regulation must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and the member must not: (a) be present during any deliberation of the Committee about the matter, except to give information requested by the Committee; or (b) take part in any decision of the Committee about that matter.”

- a) How many members of GTTAC removed themselves from the committee’s discussion on ‘new technologies’?
- b) Which members of GTTAC were involved in developing, or supported the committee’s position “that organisms altered by some site-directed nuclease techniques and oligo-directed mutagenesis are unlikely to pose risks that are different to natural mutations, conventional breeding or mutagenesis”?
- c) Is the OGTR aware that a number of the members of the GTTAC committee work for institutions with patents and active research programs in the new technologies being discussed?
- d) Is the OGTR aware that members of the GTTAC receive research funding from and actively collaborate with corporations attempting to commercialise these new techniques?

Answer:

- a) None.
- b) Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee (GTTAC) agreed by consensus to the advice provided to the Regulator.
- c) Yes.
- d) The Office of Gene Technology Regulator is aware that GTTAC members receive funding from a wide range of sources.