

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000578

**OUTCOME:** 5 - Regulation, Safety and Protection

**Topic:** Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Rice, Janet

**Question:**

According to the Gene Technology Act 2000, before the Minister appoints a person as a member of the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee, the Minister must obtain from the person a declaration setting out all direct or indirect interests, pecuniary or otherwise, that the person is aware of having in a matter of a kind likely to be considered at a meeting of the Committee.

a) Did the OGTR require each member of the current Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee to declare potential or actual conflicts of interest?

i. If yes to a), did any members of the working group identify actual or potential conflicts of interest?

ii. if yes to a), please identify those members and their interests.

**Answer:**

a) Yes. As required under Regulation 20(1) of the Gene Technology Regulations 2001, declarations of interest were obtained from all current members before their appointment to the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee.

i. Some members of the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee declared potential conflicts of interest before they were appointed to the Committee.

ii. Disclosure of details of members and their interests without their consent would involve an unreasonable disclosure of information that is personal information under the Privacy Act.