



Education, Ethics & Social Issues Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

MEMBERSHIP

1. While the Education, Ethics & Social Issues Committee (EESIC) members will generally be members of the Human Genetics Society of Australasia (HGSA), it may be appropriate to include non-HGSA members in some circumstances, such as to ensure consumer representation.
2. Committee members will have expertise relevant to the Committee's roles and responsibilities. As a minimum, the Committee membership will include at least one member with genetics and genomics-related expertise in at least one of the following areas: academic professional education; community education; ethical issues; psychosocial issues; clinical genetics; genetic counselling; consumer, student or early-career representation.
3. Committee membership will not be solely based on state representation, but on capacity to contribute to the work of the Committee. However, the Committee will endeavour to include representatives from all states/territories, and New Zealand.
4. The Committee will have no more than 14 members. Additional members may be co-opted for a finite time to assist in addressing specific issues.

Term of Membership

Two years. Eligible for re-election for up to 2 further terms, with no more than 4 members to retire at one time. Members commit to attend as many meetings as possible; if a member misses more than 2 meetings per year, membership may be reviewed and/or revoked by the Chair(s).

Chairpersonship

Chosen by EESIC and endorsed by the Board.

Accountability

To the Board of HGSA.

Appointment

By call for nominations and/or invitation, and election by existing Committee members if there are more nominations than vacant positions, taking into account minimum membership requirements.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Within HGSA

1. To anticipate, identify and respond to relevant issues in human genetics and genomics about which the HGSA may be expected to have expert knowledge to contribute to community* debate and policy formation.
2. To review and/or develop policies and guidelines for the HGSA and provide expert advice and guidance to the HGSA Board, Council and membership on the educational, ethical and social issues associated with human genetics and genomics.
3. To provide expert advice, specialist input and exchange of information. Where opportunities arise, the Committee, or members of the Committee, may:
 - Promote engagement around genetics and genomics education and ethical issues to members at the HGSA Annual Scientific Meeting
 - Facilitate public and school education activities and associated educational initiatives for these audiences
 - Develop and review HGSA recommended core competencies
 - Provide advice on curriculum design and assessment for relevant education, ethical and social issues training programs offered by the HGSA plus other organisations and/or institutions
 - Develop and review HGSA policy statements relating to HGSA member and public education, ethical and social issues in genetics and genomics
 - Facilitate HGSA input into relevant government policies.
4. To promote awareness of educational and ethics resources and activities to the membership.

Outside HGSA

5. To provide expert advice, specialist input and exchange of information to develop and/or deliver public engagement initiatives:
 - 5.1. **General Public**

Recognise the importance of human genetics education and engagement, including ethical and social issues, for society as a whole, including contributing to public education in human genetics through a variety of strategies.
 - 5.2. **Government, College and/or Professional Bodies**

Seek opportunities to promote genetic literacy in government and actively contribute to government consultations regarding ethical, psychosocial and educational issues in genetics.
 - 5.3. **School/Tertiary Education**

Seek opportunities to participate in and/or facilitate genetics and genomics educational programs, including engagement with ethical and psychosocial issues.
6. To review and promote the HGSA recommended core competencies for medical graduates as opportunities arise, and promote these to Deans of Universities, the Royal Australasian College of General Practice, Specialist Medical Colleges and the NHMRC.
7. To promote professional and community* engagement with ethical and social issues in human genetics and genomics.
8. Inform and facilitate the HGSA contribution to public debate and (external) policy formation relating to genetics and genomics.

***Community** is a term used in the broadest sense and may refer to health professionals, special interest groups, various community sectors, the international community, etc.

9. The role of the HGSA Secretariat staff member in EESIC meetings

1. To provide secretarial support to EESIC, e.g., minute taking, accessing historical documents, etc.
2. To act as a conduit between the Board and EESIC and provide EESIC with information about issues that may have arisen.
3. To check alignment between EESIC and Board positions.
4. The role does not extend to development of position statements but may include review of such documents in order to fulfill the aspects listed above or in their capacity as a representative of the Board.