



28 January 2022

Budget Policy Division
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

Australian Genomics Healthcare Initiative: Pre-Budget Submission FY22/23

After two years, the COVID pandemic continues to dominate Australian lives. However, Australia's relative success in managing the pandemic is in part due to the strong investment by successive Governments into the health and medical research sectors. As Australians look towards a horizon beyond COVID, there is a critical need to build upon this investment to ensure the future success and effectiveness of the Australian health system.

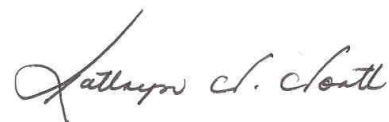
This pre-budget submission for the Australian Genomics Healthcare Initiative (Australian Genomics Business Continuity Plan) presents the investment and approach to realise the translational benefits of health genomics, building upon capabilities, infrastructure and expertise established by the Australian Government through the NHMRC since 2016.

Health genomics is projected to transform the way healthcare is delivered throughout the course of an individual's life, enabling rapid diagnosis, prevention, early intervention and targeted therapies. Australian Genomics now has the opportunity to drive excellence in genomics innovation and translation to improve the health and wellbeing of all Australians, at all stages of life.

An assessment of future government and non-government funding sources determined that due to specific dynamics of the nascent genomic research and medicine market in Australia, the most effective model of funding is a primarily Australian Government funded entity to act in the public interest, with an annual budget of \$7 million, in line with national genomic initiatives around the globe.

The attached submission outlines the ongoing and critical need for a national genomic initiative in Australia as a single and independent point of connectivity across this complex ecosystem: driving health safety, quality and equity of access – and driving health innovation for the benefit of all Australians.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Kathryn North AC
Director, Murdoch Children's Research Institute
Lead, Australian Genomics





The **Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI)** is committed to making discoveries and developing treatments to improve child and adolescent health in Australia and around the world. MCRI pioneers new treatments, trials better vaccines and improves ways of diagnosing and helping sick babies, children and adolescents.

Australian Genomics is an Australian Government-funded initiative supporting genomic research and its translation into clinical practice. It is a national, collaborative, genomics research program administered by Murdoch Children's Research Institute – with over 100 participating institutions around the country – including the clinical and laboratory genetics services in each state and territory. Through broad engagement and a national collaborative approach, Australian Genomics improves the efficiency, reach and timeliness of genomic research projects. It supports the implementation of genomics research outcomes to inform evidence-based policy development and clinical practice.