

Gene Technology Ethics Committee Meeting

22 November 2007, Canberra

COMMUNIQUE

The Gene Technology Ethics Committee (GTEC) held its fifteenth meeting in Canberra on 22 November 2007.

GTEC was established by the *Gene Technology Act 2000* (the Act) as a statutory advisory committee to the Gene Technology Regulator (the Regulator) and the Gene Technology Ministerial Council. All committee members and expert advisers hold office on a part-time basis. (A reference to 'members' in the communiqué includes 'expert advisers').

This was the final meeting of the Committee, which will be replaced by the new Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee (GTECCC) from 2008.

The main items discussed were:

- Ethical issues arising from the modification of animals for aesthetic or ornamental purposes.
- Response to the National Framework for the Development of Ethical Principles in Gene Technology.
- Working group papers:
 - Public Consultation: Community & Stakeholders (this paper was initiated by the Gene Technology Community Consultative Committee (GTCCC) and considered jointly with GTEC at their combined meeting on 15 March 2007)
 - Environmental Ethics and Gene Technology

Members of the Committee also received a report from the Chair regarding relevant events he had attended since the last GTEC meeting, and from the Regulator regarding the ongoing and completed work of the Office. Members were informed of relevant work from other national committees via cross-member reports.

GTEC's Work Plan

The Committee agreed to refer projects still in development to the new GTECCC and provided some guidance on the key issues that the new Committee might consider in finalising them.

GTEC and Relationships with Other Committees

The Committee received reports from the Chair, the Gene Technology Regulator, the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee (GTTAC), the Australian Health Ethics Committee (AHEC) and the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC).

**For all inquiries, please contact the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator on
1800 181 030 (free-call)**