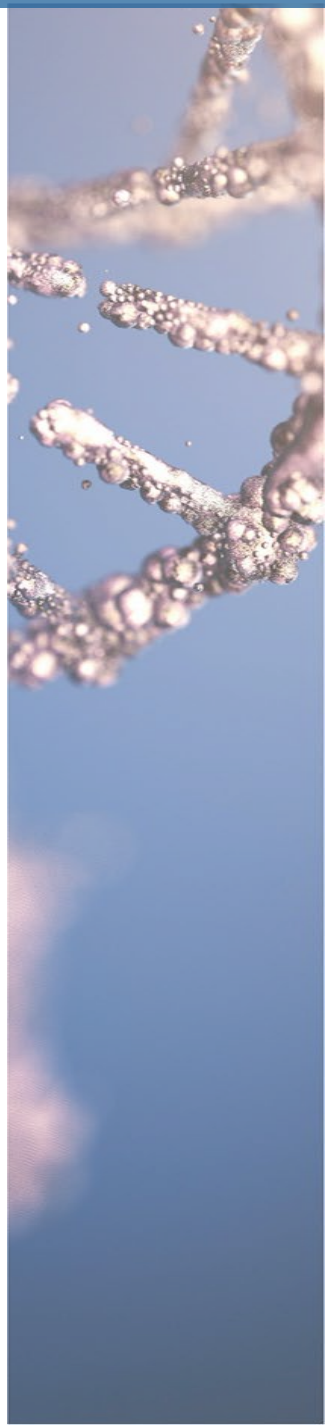
Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

Gene Technology Committees

Brittany Bleathman

October 2026



Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

Gene Technology Advisory Committees

Evolution of oversight in Australia

SCIENCE
PEOPLE
SAFETY
A MORE INFORMED TOMORROW

1975

CORD established

Committee on Recombinant DNA

Established by the Australian Academy of Science to provide oversight of recombinant DNA research in Australia.

1981

RDMC established

Recombinant DNA Monitoring Committee

Established within the Commonwealth Department of Science to monitor and assess recombinant DNA research and applications.

1987 – 2001

GMAC

Genetic Manipulation Advisory Committee

Independent scientific advisory committee overseeing gene technology under a voluntary national scheme.

2000 – 2001

Gene Technology Act 2000

Passed Dec 2000
Commenced 21 Jun 2001

Established three statutory advisory committees:

- **GTTAC**
- **GTEC**
- **GTCCC**

8 Oct 2001

GTTAC commenced

Scientific & Technical Advice

2005 – 2006

Review identified overlap between:

- **GTEC** (Ethics)
- **GTCCC** (Community Consultation)

Jun 2007

GTEC + GTCCC merged

Formed the Gene Technology Ethics and Community Consultative Committee (GTECCC)

1 Jan 2008

GTECCC commenced

Ethics, Community Consultation & Risk Communication

1975 – 1981 – 1987 – 2001 – 2000 – 2001 – 8 Oct 2001 – 2005 – 2006 – Jun 2007 – 1 Jan 2008

Current advisory committees

GTTAC
Scientific & Technical Advice

GTECCC
Ethics, Community Consultation & Risk Communication

GTTAC long standing committee members



John Rasko



Paul Young



Jason Smythe



Michael Michael



Gabrielle O’Sullivan



Graham Bonnett

GTECCC Long standing committee members



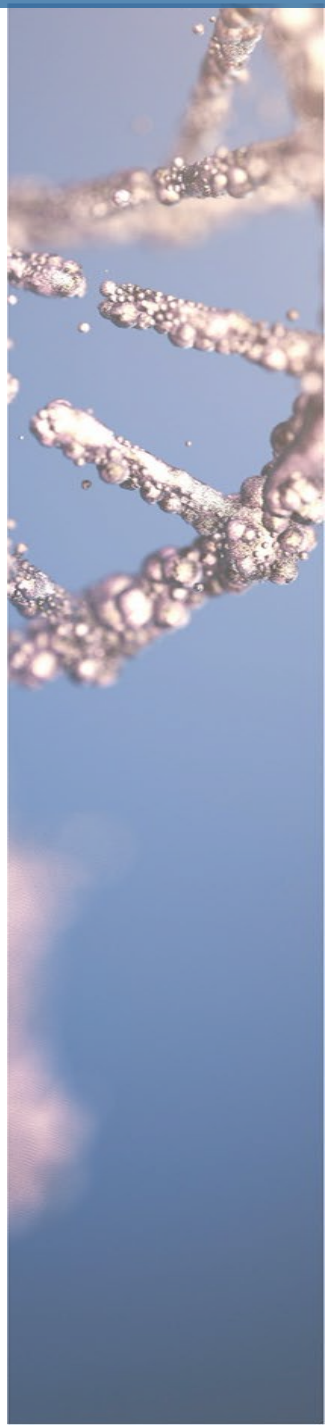
Judith Jones



Rachel Nowak

Role of GTTAC

- To provide scientific and technical advice on request of the Regulator (or GTMM), on:
  - gene technology, GMOs and GM products
  - applications made to the Regulator
  - biosafety aspects of gene technology
  - policy principles, policy guidelines, codes of practice, technical and procedural guidelines in relation to GMOs and GM products

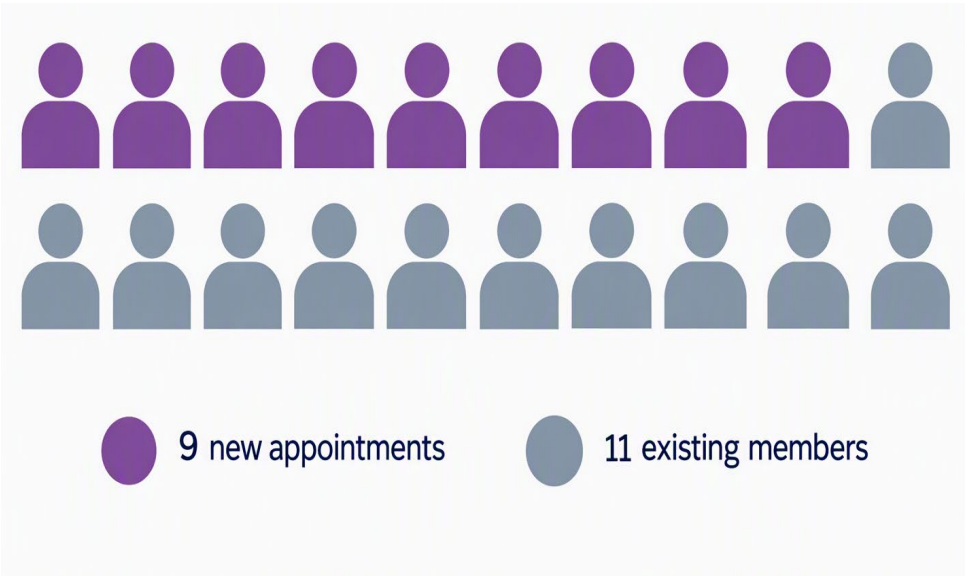


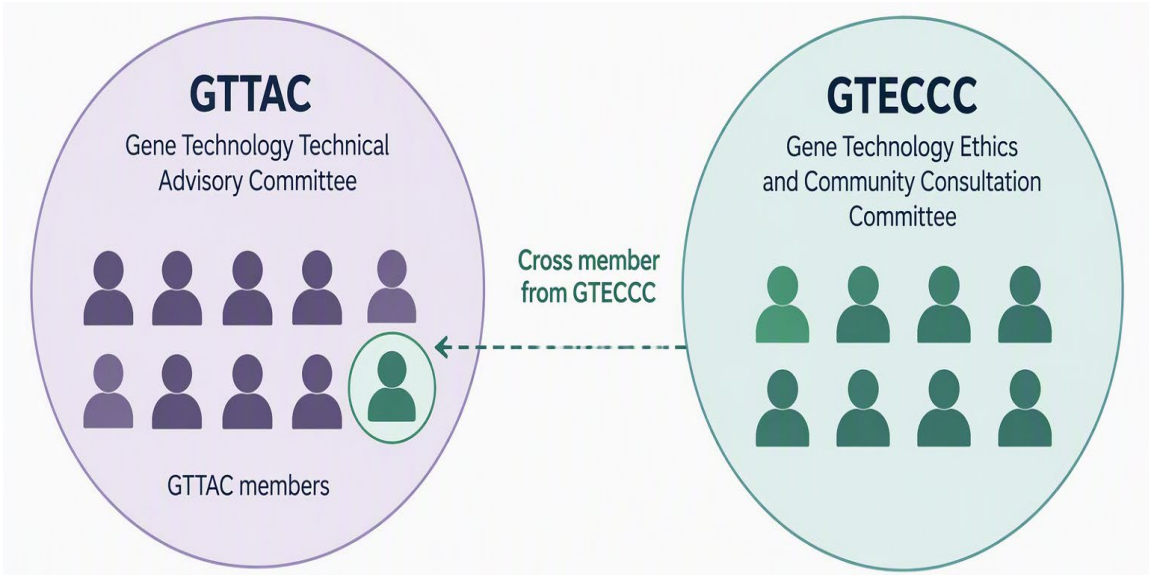
Work of GTTAC

- DIRs - All
  - Commercial/general releases – applications and RARMPs
  - Limited and controlled releases – RARMPs only
- DNIRs – some
  - Organisms posing unusual risks
  - Novel technologies
  - High level containments
  - Clinical trials
- Ad hoc technical advice



GTTAC membership





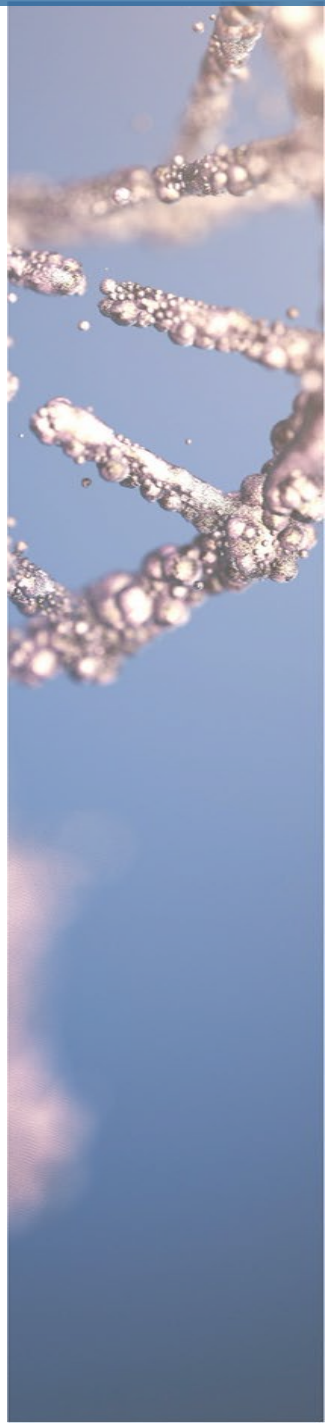
The GTTAC membership has a range of skills and expertise

GTTAC members 2026-2029

Role of GTECCC

To provide advice on request of the Regulator (or GTMM), on:

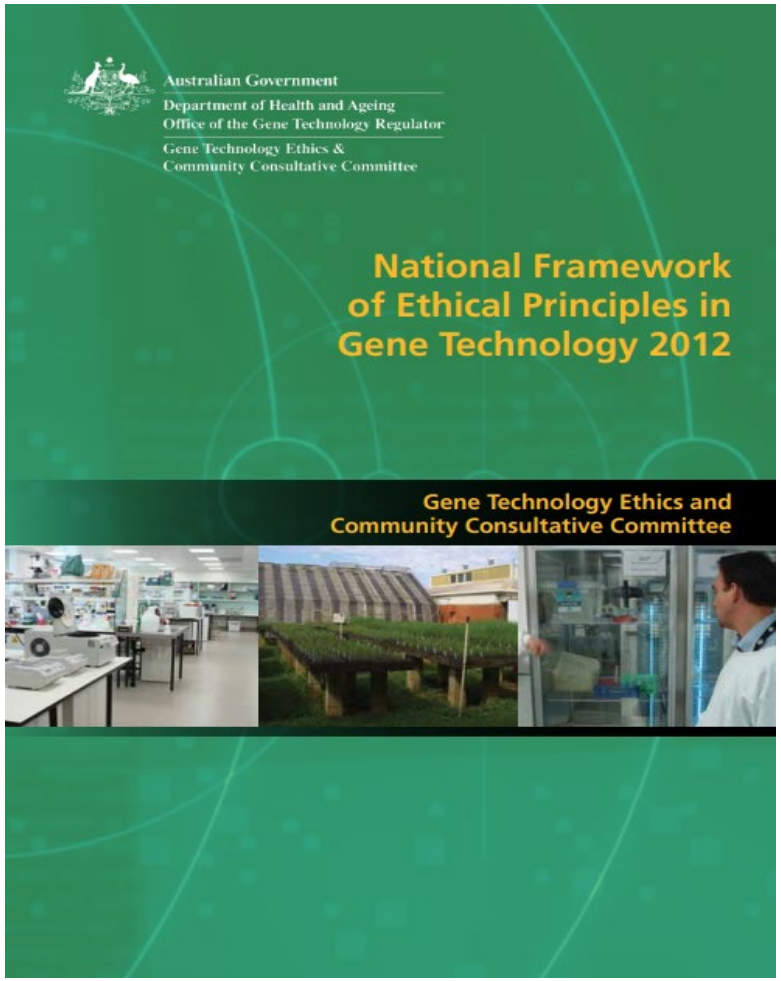
- ethical issues relating to gene technology
- policy principles, guidelines and codes of practice for GMOs
- community consultation on licence application processes
- risk communication matters
- matters of general concern about GMOs
- matters identified by the Regulator



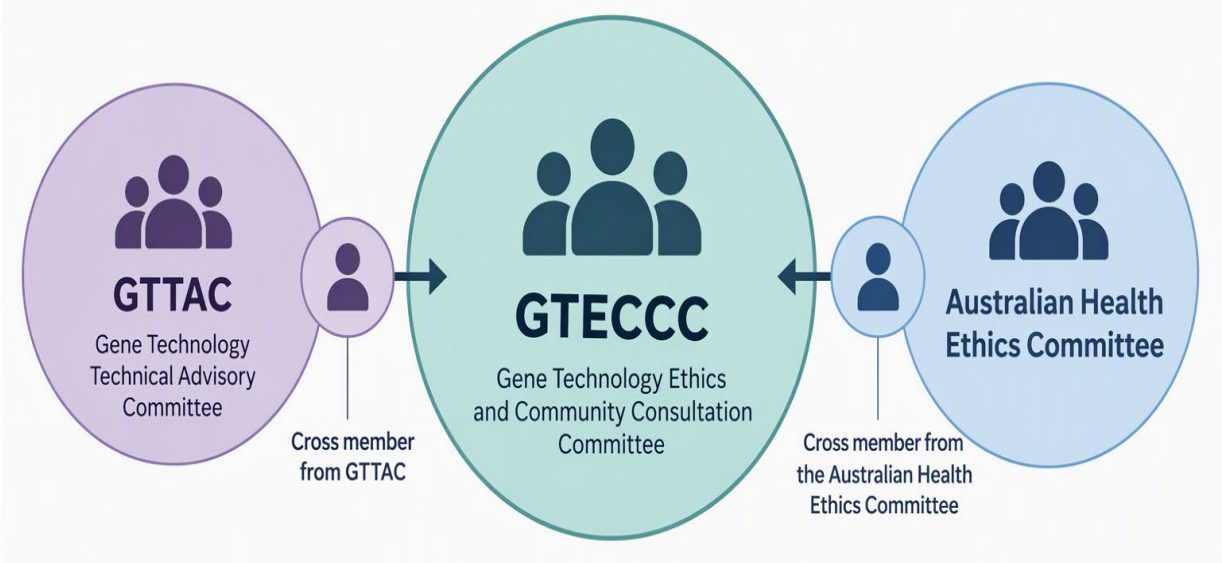
Work of GTECCC

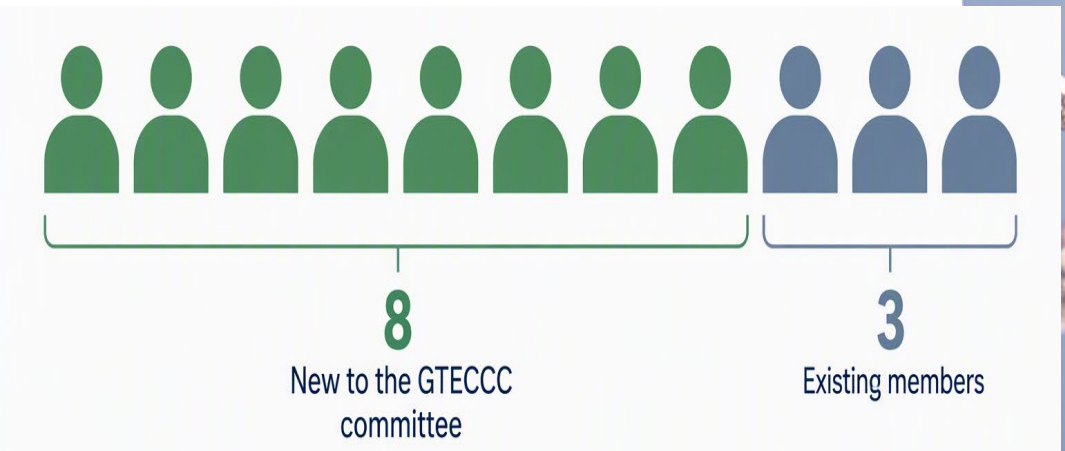
- GTECCC workplan
- National Framework of Ethical Principles
- Guidance for Communicating on Gene Technology 2025





GTECCC membership





- The GTECCC membership has a range of skills and expertise
- GTECCC members 2026-2029

Australian Government
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