

About us

The Centre for Genetics Education is dedicated to providing current and relevant genetics information to the community. We aim to inform those concerned about a genetic health issue as well as raise awareness of the importance of genetic health in the wider community.

Our educational activities include resource production, workshops and training programs that address new developments in genetic health. In addition, our research projects contribute to the ever-growing knowledge about how genetic technologies impact on society.

Our staff come from varied professional backgrounds and are often called upon to provide expertise in genetic health policy and service provision to relevant local, national and international agencies.

We are also advocates for promoting genetic health awareness in the community and participate in media commentary when required.

The Centre for Genetics Education has been established since 1989 as the education arm of the NSW Genetics Service of NSW Health. Until 2000 it was known as the NSW Genetics Education Program.

Our offices are hosted by the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service at Royal North Shore Hospital.

If you would like further information, please visit our website or contact us on the details below.

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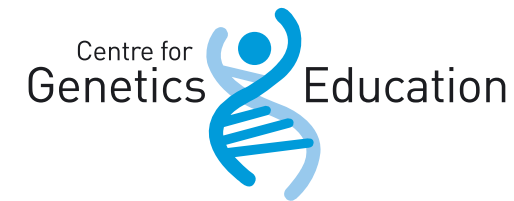
Email: contact@genetics.com.au

Web: www.genetics.edu.au

The Centre for Genetics Education does not carry advertising or accept any corporate sponsorship.

Funding for special projects may however be obtained from competitive grants and contracts.

Genetic health information for everyone



Genetics can be complicated

Around half of all Australians will be affected in some way by a genetic health issue during their lifetime.

Being able to understand how our genes work may help us manage these health issues and alleviate concerns.

Getting it right

At a time when so much information is available it can be hard to know if what you read or hear about is reliable.

Knowing that you can rely on information from a trustworthy source takes away that uncertainty.

Staying up to date

Staying in touch with the changes taking place in a dynamic field such as genetics can be daunting, even for health professionals.

Providing up to date information and education to a variety of people including consumer/community groups and professionals is what we do best.

"Thank you so much for the information and links, I found them very helpful."

Parent of a young girl with a genetic condition

Health professionals

Genetic education is important and relevant to all health professionals. The Centre develops and delivers individually designed workshops for a variety of health professionals as well as informative publications.

Not only can health professionals update their knowledge about genetics and the advancing technologies, but we also provide training in communication skills, ethics and legal issues in genetics.

Staff at the Centre are also involved in the training of future health professionals at the tertiary level.

"Thank you very much for the fact sheet. It is in a great format for people in whom a new diagnosis has been made or is considered likely."

A Doctor seeing individuals and families with genetic conditions

Why are your genes important?

Genetic information is inherited from your parents through genes. A gene is like a small microchip of information which determines many characteristics about your appearance, height, growth, health and so on. Many common health problems (including diabetes, high cholesterol and heart disease) and some that are not so common can be partly or completely caused by our genes. That is why some health conditions run in families.

Understanding your family health history can help you and your doctor evaluate whether you have a chance of developing certain health problems in the future. Knowing this information about your own genes may make it possible to prevent or treat health problems that might affect you or members of your family.

How can we help you and your family?

We produce a variety of resources covering basic genetic concepts such as genes and DNA as well as more specific information for people who have a concern about a genetic condition in themselves or another family member.

We offer these resources free of charge to the people of NSW.

Some of these resources include:

- Fact sheets
- Information booklets
- Family health history guides
- Genetic health service listings
- Genetic support group listings
- Multilingual information
- A genetic glossary

If a genetic condition is known to be in your family, we can also provide easy to understand information and referral to support services. Our trained staff have experience working with families concerned about a genetic condition and will guide you to the relevant services available.

"The information sheets are an invaluable resource for families caring for a child with a genetic condition. They assist them in explaining their child's condition, especially as they see so many doctors."

Genetic Support Group Co-ordinator

"The workshop was fantastic! I can't wait for the next one."

*Genetic Counsellor
(after attending one of our workshops)*

Schools

The Centre supports teachers and students in NSW schools in several ways. We produce teaching resources aimed at raising awareness about genetics and addressing important parts of the school syllabus.

These are produced for all students from primary school, right through to year 12.

To assist teachers in maintaining the skills and confidence to teach genetics and ethics in the classroom, the Centre also provides regular professional development opportunities such as guest lectures, demonstrations or workshops as required.

"Thank you so much for contributing again. I think it adds a lot to the day."

*Science Communicator
(after one of our guest lectures)*