

How can genetic or genomic testing impact your insurance policies?

What happens currently?

In Australia, private *health* insurance is NOT affected by genetic or genomic testing results. But *life* insurance, such as cover for death, disability, trauma, income protection, CAN be affected. Life insurance companies may increase premiums, exclude certain conditions or deny policy applications based on genetic or genomic test results.



So, what do I have to tell insurance companies?

By law* applicants for new life insurance policies are required (when asked) to disclose all information that is relevant to the insurer's decision. This can include genetic test results, and personal and family medical history.

You do not need to disclose genetic test results of relatives and you are not required to get a predictive genetic test to see if you are at risk, without having symptoms.

* Australian Government Insurance Contracts Act 1984 (Cth)

The Financial Services Council (FSC) are proposing a moratorium on genetic tests for life insurance – what does that mean for me?

Moratorium = a temporary ban

The FSC is the peak body for the life insurance industry in Australia. From 1 July 2019, the FSC is proposing a ban on the use of genetic test results which would mean that people can apply for certain levels of coverage (financial limits have been proposed, dependent on policy type) without having to disclose previous genetic test results. However, you may want to apply for a new policy, or for an increase in the value of an existing policy, which is greater than these proposed financial limits. In this case, you may be asked to provide results of previous genetic tests. Under the moratorium, companies would not be able to ask you to take a genetic test as part of your application.

You should also be aware that not all insurance companies are members of the FSC and therefore some companies may not comply with the moratorium. If you would like to see the list of FSC member companies that are bound by the Life Insurance Code of Practice [click here](http://www.fsc.org.au/policy/life-insurance/code-of-practice) (www.fsc.org.au/policy/life-insurance/code-of-practice).

Position of Australian Genomics

Australian Genomics believes that there needs to be regulation on the use of genetic testing results by life insurance companies.

Australian Genomics supports:

- An Australia-wide approach to the use of genomic information by the insurance industry.
- The Australian Government taking a leading role in this regulation.
- A moratorium (temporary ban) on use of genetic test results by insurance companies until a national regulatory approach is developed.

If you would like to view the Australian Genomics position statement on Insurance please [click here](http://www.australiangenomics.org.au/news-events/news/2018/position-statement-use-of-genomic-information-in-life-insurance-and-related-policies) (www.australiangenomics.org.au/news-events/news/2018/position-statement-use-of-genomic-information-in-life-insurance-and-related-policies).



It is important to note that this factsheet reflects the current situation in Australia and there may be changes to insurance guidelines in the near future. Please speak with your health professional if you want to know how you may be affected.