



NCIG

NATIONAL CENTRE
FOR INDIGENOUS
GENOMICS

Our DNA. Our People. Our stories. Our way.

NCIG at The Australian National University is proudly playing a leading role in a national collaboration which will deliver coordinated genomics research, infrastructure and clinical delivery in a way that is appropriate, and beneficial to Indigenous Australians.

JOIN THE NCIG BOARD AS CHAIR

Expressions of Interest now open.

Contribute to an organisation that is committed to:

- Indigenous governance,
- effective, meaningful consultation, and
- scientific and technical excellence, for
- genomic research that matters.

Harnessing the science of genomics to improve the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians.

Expressions of Interest are invited to fill the position of Chair within the Indigenous majority on the Board of NCIG. Applicants must be Indigenous Australians.

NCIG is seeking people with suitable expertise in one or more of the following areas:

Indigenous ethics and research – Law – Indigenous health –
Business management – Fundraising and philanthropy – Finance



Australian
National
University

ABOUT NCIG

The National Centre for Indigenous Genomics (NCIG) was formed by the Australian National University (ANU) in 2013 to manage a remarkable historic collection of biospecimens, documents and data collected from Indigenous Australians for new genomic health and medical research, often called precision health or precision medicine. The collection also has the potential to support repatriation of remains.

NCIG has pioneered two key platforms:

1. A model for the Indigenous governance of genomic research, including world-leading standards of community engagement and consultation;
2. A data platform that enables the storage, computation, analysis, and dynamic use of genomic data.

Australia has within its means the ability to empower Indigenous Australians to engage in and lead genomics research and its translation. In 2021, a national collaboration emerged, of which NCIG is proud to be a leading member, which can deliver coordinated genomics research, infrastructure and clinical delivery in a way that is appropriate, and beneficial to Indigenous Australians.

The collaborative vision is to develop a national Indigenous genomics architecture at the interface of genomic science, health research, health care delivery, data sciences, ethics, policy, and Indigenous knowledge systems. The approach is purposefully interdisciplinary, using social sciences and qualitative enquiry, Indigenous methodologies, data sciences and computational analytics, genomic sequencing and epidemiology, and health systems research to embed genomics into health care. It is the integration and harmonisation of these methods that will maximise impact.

FUNCTIONS OF THE NCIG BOARD

NCIG operates under an Indigenous-majority board with federal statutory powers.

The National Centre for Indigenous Genomics Statute 2021:

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00183>

The Governance Board is the custodian of the NCIG Collection and is responsible for the management and use of the collection, and for the appropriate addition of material to the collection in accordance with international standards. The Board:

- oversees operations of NCIG
- approves policies for the management and use of the collection, and for addition of material to the collection
- approves policies for the engagement of the Centre with Indigenous communities, organisations and people in relation to the collection
- provides advice to the ANU Council and ANU Vice-Chancellor about the collection;
- promotes the collection as a national and international resource
- seeks funding for the purposes of the Centre
- encourages the Centre to promote the use of the collection for research

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

The Board consists of ten members, of whom a majority must be Indigenous Australians. The Chair of the Board must be Indigenous. Two members are appointed by the ANU. Eight members are appointed by recommendation of the Board.

OPERATIONS OF THE BOARD

The Board meets four times per year, every three months. Meetings are typically held online and last 2.5 hours. Sometimes the Board is asked to consider matters between meetings, via email or phone/video link. Opportunities to attend Indigenous cultural events at ANU (Canberra) and to participate in consultation and events in remote Aboriginal communities arise from time to time, and Board members will be invited and encouraged to participate in these on an appropriate case-by-case basis. Similarly, engagement with Federal Ministers and senior bureaucrats, major donors, and other people of significance to NCIG is required from time to time, and the participation of Board members is sought on an appropriate case-by-case basis.

The Board is supported in the execution of its functions by the staff of the Centre (primarily the Director, Deputy Director, and Secretariat Officer) and other officers of the Australian National University.

TERM OF APPOINTMENT

Board members are typically appointed for 2 or 3 years but may be appointed for a term of up to 4 years, to achieve a predictable, staged rotation of members. A member may be reappointed but may not hold office for longer than 8 consecutive years.

COMMENCEMENT OF THESE APPOINTMENTS

The NCIG Statute outlines that the Chair must be an Indigenous Australian. Commencement would be as soon as possible.

REMUNERATION

The role is voluntary. Travel and accommodation expenses for attendance at Board meetings and events and any other reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out a member's duties are paid by NCIG.

OTHER INFORMATION

LINKS

- [NCIG Website](https://ncig.anu.edu.au) (ncig.anu.edu.au)
- The National Centre for Indigenous Genomics Statute 2021 can be viewed on the Federal Register of Legislation. <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00183>
- [The Governance Framework](https://ncig.anu.edu.au/about/governance-framework) (policies) of NCIG (<https://ncig.anu.edu.au/about/governance-framework>).
- NCIG [Annual Reports](https://ncig.anu.edu.au/about/annual-report) (<https://ncig.anu.edu.au/about/annual-report>)



TO APPLY

SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Please submit a written expression of interest which includes the information set out below.

1. A covering letter briefly stating:
 - the nature of your interest in joining the NCIG Board as Chair
 - your prior contribution and impact at the Board level (or at senior governance level)
 - how this experience would underpin your contribution to the NCIG Board.
2. Curriculum vitae

Email your Expression of Interest to: jcsmr.ncig.board@anu.edu.au

ENQUIRIES

All enquiries will be treated in confidence. Enquiries can be directed via the Board Secretariat, Deb Marburg. E: jcsmr.ncig.board@anu.edu.au M: 0415 350 375

CLOSING DATE FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Monday 12 August 2024.