Genetic Health Queensland (GHQ)

GHQ is a FREE Queensland Health service that provides diagnosis, genetic testing and information to individuals and their families. To access GHQ, you will need a referral from your GP or specialist.

To find out more, talk to your doctor. You might benefit from a referral to GHQ if:

- You have a developmental, intellectual or physical disability;
- You are concerned about your risk of a genetic condition;
- You have a personal and/or family history of a known genetic condition or cancer;
- You are concerned about the chance of passing on a genetic condition in a current or future pregnancy.

For more information about genetic testing and/or how to make an appointment for genetic testing, please contact:

Genetic Health Queensland
C/- Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital Butterfield Street, Herston QLD 4029
Phone: 07 3846 1886
Fax: 07 3846 1987
Email: ghq@health.qld.gov.au

Also, check out the Queensland Genomics website: www.queenslandgenomics.org/about-genomics/

For more information on your rights and responsibilities as a health consumer visit this link www.oho.qld.gov.au

This resource was developed by QIMR Berghofer Indigenous Health Research Program, funded by Queensland Genomics

Let’s have a yarn about Genes, DNA and Genetic Testing

South East Queensland

Artwork by Zeitha Murphy
What are Genes & DNA?

DNA holds your family history [stories] in your blood and your body. These are passed on to you through your parents, grandparents and ancestors. Your kids and grandkids will receive these stories through you.

Everyone has their own unique DNA. DNA is the recipe for genes. Genes are responsible for your skin, bones, eye colour, hair colour and generally your appearance. We can tell a lot about you by reading your gene stories.

DNA holds the instructions on how your body works. Genes are arranged within the DNA in most cells in your body. Some differences in the arrangement or structure of these genes can cause illness, cancer and other conditions.

Genetic Health & Testing

Looking at gene stories in detail with a Genetic Test can help doctors to identify medical conditions you may have or may get in the future.

What does your test mean for your family?

Your family could have the same condition as you and may benefit from a referral for genetic testing. Knowing about your gene stories can help you to understand your family’s stories.

Precision Medicine

Health services are moving towards reading your DNA stories to look at treatments that work better for you. This new technology is called precision or personalized medicine.

The more DNA stories they read the better treatment they can design for certain conditions that you may have or may get in the future.