

1. What is your personal experience of how human tissue is obtained or used in Australia?

I am a medical researcher with long experience in tissue-based cancer research and scientific review of research proposals.

2. What is your personal experience of how human tissue laws work in Australia?

In NSW, the Human Tissue Act 1983 No164 Section 34, which currently allows scientific use of small tissue samples that have been lawfully removed, works well to enable medical research and also to support Human Research Ethics Committees in their consideration of research proposals.

The permitted use of small tissue samples for quality assurance and quality control purposes is also an important provision of current NSW legislation.

5. Do you agree that the issues set out in the section ‘Priority reform areas’ should be a focus for our Inquiry? Please tell us about why you think these issues should or should not be a focus.

Current prohibition of donation of all non-regenerative tissue for scientific purposes may be overly restrictive. For example, with appropriate Human Research Ethics Committee and clinical oversight, it may be reasonable to ask research participants to donate small samples of normal or diseased tissue that are taken at the same time as diagnostic biopsy procedures.

I note that this is included as point 56 in the Issues Paper priority reform areas, and I agree that this should be considered.