



SHARING YOUR GENETIC INFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA

When it comes to posting your own genetic diagnosis or results on social media or any other means of public communication, you may not think twice about the impact of your decision.

Sharing your genetic information can be a way of bringing awareness to the cause that's most important to you, providing support for other people in a similar situation or simply just sharing important life events with your online community.

Whilst the benefits of contributing your genetic information to the community can no doubt be beneficial to others, it's important to keep in mind that it can also have an impact on not only you but on your extended family and generations to come. For example, it was recently reported that data collected by genetic projects such as 23andme could potentially be integrated with electronic health records and then be used in research and be available to a multitude of people, potentially putting the privacy of many people at risk. You may not always want all healthcare providers to have access to your results.

It's important to be mindful of the fact that if shared online, your genetic results may be easily obtainable by future employers, health insurance agencies or other organisations. The potential is there for your genetic health status to be used to hinder not only your personal ability to be approved for health or travel insurance or be granted employment in certain sectors, but the ability of your family members to be granted such approval. It can impact otherwise healthy family members simply because you share the same genetic make-up.

This is not to say that you should never share your genetic information again, but just a reminder to consider whether the platform you share your genetic information on is regulated by any policies that prevent your information from ending up in the hands of the wrong people. For example, if you post your genetic information on Facebook, you are unable to control who will see your post and where the details will end up.

Australia's anti-discrimination laws are in place to prevent discrimination against potential employees based on their health status. The Australian Age, Racial, Disability and Sex Discrimination Acts contain more information on how you are protected under federal legislation, click [here](#) for more information.