

Summary of OPPE Purpose, Mission Statement and Goals

OPPE PURPOSE			
<p>To undertake research on and analysis of ethical and public policy issues raised by biotechnology with the aim of enhancing public participation in decisions about biotechnology.</p> <p>OPPE is located in the IMB and the FSBSci at the University of Queensland</p>			
MISSION STATEMENT			
<p>To undertake ethical and public policy analyses of the known and potential risks and benefits of biotechnology, to contribute effectively to public debate and encourage informed public participation in decision and policy-making.</p>			
OPPE GOALS			
<p style="text-align: center;">▼</p> <p>To develop a framework for ethical and public policy analysis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">▼</p> <p>Such a framework will improve our understanding and use of terms such as ‘ethics’ and ‘public policy’, the interplay between the two, and their application to biotechnology. The development and implementation of this framework will be an iterative process. It will be something that will be revisited throughout OPPE’s lifespan in order to respond to issues raised by biotechnological developments.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">▼</p> <p>To identify known and potential risks and benefits of biotechnologies</p> <p style="text-align: center;">▼</p> <p>‘<i>Known</i> risks and benefits’, refer to the established facts regarding biotechnology processes. The ‘<i>potential</i> risks and benefits’, acknowledge that biotechnology is a moving target that is continually being developed. At times, it may be impossible to know the risks and benefits and the real and potential risks and benefits of a particular biotechnology may change over time.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">▼</p> <p>To contribute effectively to the public debate in this area</p> <p style="text-align: center;">▼</p> <p>OPPE’s contribution to public debate will be guided by the following principles: honesty, fairness, independence, timeliness, complementarity (that is, contributing information that fills a gap rather duplicates), succinctness and intelligibility. These principles will be implemented in: newsletters, factsheets, website, briefing documents, and media comments.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">▼</p> <p>To develop methods for informed and meaningful public participation in decision and policy-making</p> <p style="text-align: center;">▼</p> <p>We need to enhance public understanding of science and research in general, if we are to have more involved, scientifically literate and critical citizenry. A key goal will be to understand public concerns about new biotechnologies by developing better methods of consulting public opinion.</p>