Our comments are given below:

Overall well written and clearly expressed. It is made very clear that the
use of the
Guidelines is obligatory, that the decision to disclose the genetic
information is not
mandatory, but discretionary. Both decisions, to disclose or not to
disclose, must be
documented with a rationale for the decision. There is strong emphasis
on a
collaborative approach with experts and other health professionals, and a
clear "test"
for when a decision to disclose may be justified:
  1. The threat to genetic relatives must be serious;
  2. The threat must be able to be prevented or lessened via a disclosure
  3. That no other alternative to disclosure for preventing or lessening
the
threat
can be identified.

The only question we have is based on page vii:

"In instances where there are no medical or scientific means of
reducing a
recognised
serious threat, there is some doubt that it could be said that the use
or
disclosure of
genetic information could lessen that threat in the relevant sense. In
circumstances
where a contemplated use or disclosure would not lessen a serious
threat to
life,
health or safety to a noticeable extent or assist in reducing that
threat,
the exception
(to keeping confidentiality) will not apply"

What about a case where there is not cure or good treatment for a
genetic
condition,
relatives might still need to be informed so that in the intervening
period, they could
put plans etc in place and organise their lives in light of what may
happen, that is,
disclosure would still lead to "optimal management" of a situation.

Further reading (P3) confirmed that "optimal management" is still a
relevant
consideration.

Dr John Carnie