



Avant Foundation

Supporting
quality, safety and
professionalism in the
practice of medicine

Our vision

Safer practice of medicine for both
doctors and patients

Our mission

To invest in research, education
and leadership programs in order
to improve quality, safety and
professionalism in medicine.

Emeritus Professor Kim Oates AM
Avant Foundation Board member

Kim
OATES



Background

What is Avant?

Avant is a mutual organisation, owned by our doctor members. We offer medical indemnity insurance, medico-legal advice and assistance to over 70,000 health practitioners and students.

Why has Avant established a Foundation?

As a mutual, our members are at the centre of all we do, which is to protect, defend, advise and support them.

We are driven to make a difference to the future of medicine in Australia. By supporting research, training, education and investment that improves quality, safety and professionalism in medical practice, we will achieve this aim – leading to better outcomes for doctors and the community.

Avant currently invests in a range of activities aimed at improving medical practice, and we are regularly approached by organisations seeking support for their work. Establishing the Foundation unites these activities under one core vision and oversight model for greater focus and alignment with our goals.

The Foundation's goals

1. Invest in programs that lead to sustainable improvements in quality, safety and professionalism for the benefit of patients and the community.
2. Support programs that partner with other healthcare organisations to foster a culture of quality, safety and professionalism.
3. Support programs that reduce medico-legal and clinical risks.
4. Increase the impact of the funded programs by raising awareness of program outcomes amongst the medical profession.
5. Build our profile as a leading advocate for quality, safety and professionalism in medicine.
6. Build a sustainable organisation. A strong reputation is vital to the Avant Foundation, attracting both high quality applications for funding as well as donations from the medical community and beyond.

We will develop our profile through:

- ▶ communicating the Foundation's goals and outcomes
- ▶ developing high quality processes to support robust decision making
- ▶ selecting projects for funding that have a high likelihood of success and will make a difference
- ▶ forming partnerships with organisations to enhance our reach and promote program outcomes.

'The Foundation is an important and significant new initiative that will allow Avant Mutual to invest in future leaders and projects that will result in enduring benefits for patient safety and quality healthcare.'

Professor Jonathan Morris
Avant member

Governance

1. A Foundation Council oversees the implementation and operation of the Foundation as a whole.
2. A Foundation Board ensures the sound and prudent management of charitable activities. These activities are conducted via a Public Ancillary Fund, which is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission and endorsed as a deductible gift recipient with the Australian Taxation Office.

We have established strong governance for the Foundation, led by an experienced, diverse, skills-based Board and supported by a management team with experience in managing grant-making programs.

It is important that the Avant Foundation is sustainable. To do this, we will:

- ensure an appropriate funding mix from different sources
- prudently manage investments and contributions.

Our approach

We will focus our investments on projects that can be rapidly translated into clinical practice or policy improvements and contribute to sustainable cultural change in medicine. We will report on the outputs and outcomes of the projects we fund over time to demonstrate both the short and long-term value.

We will be seeking expressions of interest prior to detailed applications, to assist candidates in developing their applications.

Focus areas for 2019

- ▶ Initiatives that develop and support leadership capability, especially those focused on quality improvement in medicine.
- ▶ Academic research in the domains of quality that drive towards a reduction in medico-legal and clinical risk.
- ▶ Quality improvement initiatives in the clinical setting.
- ▶ Education initiatives focusing on quality, safety and professionalism.
- ▶ Projects, research and education programs on professionalism in medicine.

Full details of the Foundation's funding focus, timings and eligibility are available on our website:

 avantdifference.org.au

