

Avant Foundation Grants 2020

Terms and conditions

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Who we are and our purpose

The Avant Foundation's (the Foundation) purpose is to support research, education and leadership programs in order to improve quality, safety and professionalism in medicine.

This involves:

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

To pursue this purpose the Avant Foundation proposes to invite applications for funding under specific programs aligned to the core vision. For 2020, the focus areas include:

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

Eligibility

The Foundation may provide funding to:

- a) Entities including but not limited to:
 - medical research institutes
 - medical/healthcare foundations
 - universities
 - medical colleges and societies
 - hospitals or hospital group (public or private)
 - local hospital networks or Local Health Districts
 - Primary Health Networks
 - who are in the healthcare industry; and
 - who have Deductible Gift Recipient status (but not another ancillary fund) listed with the Australian Taxation Office under Item 1 of the Table in Section 30.15 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997; or
 - do not hold Deductible Gift Recipient status
- b) Medical practices that hold (at the time of application and throughout the project period) a Practice Medical Indemnity Policy with Avant Insurance Limited;
- c) Medical practitioners
 - who hold (at the time of application and throughout the project period) a Professional Indemnity Insurance Policy with Avant Insurance Limited in a Practitioner Category of Practice, that is, not Intern/RMO or a Doctor in Training;
 - who are an Australian citizen, New Zealand citizen or permanent resident of Australia and based in Australia;
 - who are a practising medical practitioner registered with the Medical Board of Australia;

Medical practitioners must be a project leader with responsibility for the design, execution and management of the project. If the project involves other people you must confirm these people's consent to you being the project leader. Grants are awarded on an individual basis and other parties are not eligible to receive any part of the grant. You must have the support of your employer if you are applying on their behalf.

The Foundation will not in any of the above categories provide funding to an organisation controlled or one that employs a director, manager or employee of Avant or its associated organisations, or an immediate family member of a director, manager or employee of Avant.

Stages for Grant funding

There are two stages of the process:

- Stage 1 – Expression of interest; and
- Stage 2 – Submission of a full application.

Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (EOI)

Expressions of Interest open at 12pm (AEDT) on Tuesday 1 October 2019 and close at 5pm (AEDT) on Friday 31 January 2020. Expressions of interest received after the close of the EOI period will not be considered. All EOIs must be completed online together with any additional information requested by the Foundation.

By submitting an EOI you agree you are authorised to do so as a representative of the entity or practice or applying as an individual and agree to be bound to the terms and conditions.

The EOI will assess how the applicant's project fits with the scope and priorities of the Foundation. It will also be used to identify important information such as the project leader, a high level outline of what the project is intended to achieve, its timeframes and funding requirements.

A Judging Panel will review the EOI and shortlist those who will be invited to participate in Stage 2 – Submission of a full application. Those submitting an EOI will be notified of the outcome via the email address provided to the Foundation by 9 March 2020.

The Foundation will not include incomplete EOIs in the review process.

Stage 2 – Submission of an Application

If you are shortlisted in Stage 1 you will be notified and invited to submit a more detailed application during Stage 2. The Foundation will provide this notification on or around 9 March 2020 by email to the email address provided in your application.

The purpose of Stage 2 is to provide the Foundation with more information in order to allow a more thorough assessment. This will include information about the project design, its budget and plans for sustainability and scalability of outcomes.

The completed application will need to be submitted by the closing date of 5 April 2020 at 5:00pm (AEDT). Late entries will not be considered or accepted.

Changes in project details prior to award of Avant Foundation Grant

If, prior to award of grants, there is a substantive change to the applicant's project timeline that would require the period to be extended, the applicant must immediately notify the Foundation in writing, qualifying the reasons for the additional time needed.

Similarly, if there is a substantive change to the applicant's project scope, the applicant must immediately notify the proposed change to the Foundation in writing.

Assessment of applications

The following elements will be considered during the assessment of each application:

- Applicant and project team's quality improvement experience
- Applicant's leadership experience
- Project design
- Sustainability of project outcomes
- Relative importance of funding
- How the project meets the objectives of the Foundation
- Project rationale and relevance
- Project scalability and sustainability
- Project timeframes
- Project budget

The Foundation Grant recipients will be chosen based on the information provided during both stages. The Foundation reserves the right to request verification of information provided by the applicant.

The Foundation reserves the right to:

- tour a facility or practice as part of the evaluation process where further clarity is required;
- request additional information of the applicant;
- award the grants at its absolute discretion;
- alter the grant amounts; or
- determine that no grants will be awarded.

Notification to grant recipients

Any decision by The Foundation on any matter is final and not subject to review. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by email. Beyond notification of outcome, The Foundation will not provide feedback on individual applications. The Foundation will determine the number of and the amount of any grants in its absolute discretion.

Conditions for successful recipients

The expectation is that the project will be completed within:

- 24 months for entities; or
- 12 months for medical practices and individual medical practitioners

of the commencement date specified by the applicant in the application form ('Project Period').

Avant Foundation Grant Agreement

Before receiving the grant, the Foundation Grant recipients will be required to execute a Grant Agreement, in the form required by the Foundation.

Meeting milestones

Successful grant recipients will be required to provide the following:

- Proof of commencement of project
- Ethics approval, if required
- Regular progress reports; frequency to be based on the length of the grant period
- Mid-term report
- Final Report

Evidence of approval

The successful grant recipient must provide evidence, prior to commencement of the grant period, to confirm their Deductible Gift Recipient status with the Australian Taxation Office, if applicable.

Where applicable, evidence of ethics committee approval must also be supplied. Ethics approval must be secured within six months of award of grant. The grant period cannot commence until approval is supplied. In the case where ethics approval is not required, the Avant Foundation must receive documentary evidence confirming that the proposed research does not require ethics approval as outlined in the NHMRC guidelines, Ethical Considerations in Quality Assurance and Evaluation Activities

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/resources/ethical-considerations-quality-assurance-and-evaluation-activities>

Receipt of other grants or scholarships

The Foundation must receive information on any other funding awarded for this project within one month of additional funding being received.

Payment of Avant Grants

To be eligible for payment of any grant, Foundation Grant recipients must undertake the Foundation approved project within the project period or as otherwise approved by the Foundation.

The grant will be paid in three instalments:

- i. 1st Instalment of 50% following proof of commencement of project and ethics approval
- ii. 2nd Instalment of 25% after a mid-term report is provided
- iii. 3rd instalment of the remaining 25% upon completion of the project

Payments are subject to satisfactory progress and continued compliance with these terms and conditions. Satisfactory progress is defined as having reached the milestones within the agreed timeframe.

Payments will be made by direct credit into the Foundation Grant recipients' nominated Australian bank account. To facilitate this payment, recipients will be required to supply their nominated bank account details and to confirm the project commencement date within two weeks of being notified of their successful application.

Repayment of Foundation Grants

Grant funds must be repaid in full within four (4) weeks if the recipient:

- receives an overpayment of a payment made in error
- was ineligible to apply for the grant
- received an offer of a grant in error
- is found guilty of professional misconduct by the Medical Board of Australia
- is subject to disciplinary procedures
- causes reputational harm to the Foundation in any form
- breaches any of the terms and conditions stated herein or otherwise advised by the Foundation.

The award of a Foundation Grant is based on information provided by the applicant to the Foundation. A grant may be withdrawn at any stage if incorrect information was provided or relevant information was withheld during the application process. If any part of an application is found to have been made fraudulently, immediate and full repayment will be required.

Changes in timeline or scope

Timeline

If there is a substantive change to the project timeline that would require the time period to be extended, the Foundation Grant recipient must immediately notify the Foundation in writing (using the Request for Extension form), outlining the reasons for the additional time needed and seeking written approval to extend the project period.

The Foundation may, at its sole discretion, cease to fund the remainder of the grant if the recipient fails to notify the Foundation of a substantive change in the project timeline. We may also require the recipient to repay the grant in full.

Scope

If there is a substantive change to the project scope during the project period, the recipient must immediately report the proposed change to the Foundation in writing. The Foundation may, at its sole discretion, cease to fund the remainder of the grant.

If the recipient fails to notify the Foundation of a substantive change in the project scope, the Foundation may require the recipient to repay the grant in full.

Reporting requirements

Throughout the project period, the Foundation Grant recipients must provide a formal progress report mid way through the project and a final report upon completion of the project.

Where the project period is extended, the Foundation, at its absolute discretion, may request additional reports.

Grant recipients will take all action required to enable the Foundation to publish these reports, or extracts from them, in any Foundation materials or publications (including on the [Foundation website](#)).

Promotion and media

The Foundation Grant recipients will, if required, work with Avant's editorial team so as to enable the Foundation to publish the results or progress of their project in nominated peer reviewed journals or magazines in Australia.

All reports, articles, publications, relevant correspondence, and materials relating to the project or findings pertaining to the subject of the project must state that the work has been supported by the Avant Foundation Grant program.

Upon request, the Foundation Grant recipients must present their findings at a Foundation event.

If a recipient wishes to submit an article for publication, reporting on the outcomes of the project, The Foundation must receive a copy of the final manuscript before publication.

The Foundation Grant recipients agree, at the Foundation's request, to participate in any and all promotional activity (such as publicity and photography) and consent to Avant and the Avant Foundation using their name, likeness, image and/or voice (including photograph, film and/or recording of the same) in any media for an unlimited period without remuneration for the purpose of promoting the Avant Foundation Grants program now or in the future and for promoting any products and services issued and/or supplied by the Foundation and its related bodies corporate.

Intellectual property

The grant recipient will own the Intellectual Property Rights created while undertaking the project.

The grant recipient will give the Foundation a non-exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free licence to use, reproduce, publish and adapt material or results arising from the project, and will acknowledge the Foundation in commercial activities arising from the use of material or results arising from the project.

Privacy

Expressions of interest and applications for the Avant Foundation Grants remain the property of the Foundation. Details from expressions of interest and applications may be collected and used for the purposes of conducting The Foundation Grants program (which may include disclosure to third parties for assessment and verification purposes) and, in the case of recipients, for the purposes of promotion of the Foundation Grants and similar Foundation programs in subsequent years.

By submitting an expression of interest and application, applicants consent to the use of their information as described in Avant's privacy policy. Applicants may access, change, and/or update their personal information by contacting Avant on 1800 128 268. Applicants may obtain a copy of [Avant's privacy policy](#) from the website.

