

# Avant Foundation and Avant Grants

2023

Terms and Conditions





# Terms and Conditions

## Who we are and our purpose

The purpose of the Avant Foundation Grants and Avant Grants is to support research, education and leadership programs in order to improve quality, safety and professionalism in medicine.

This involves **five specific objectives**:

- Supporting academic research that will ultimately influence quality, safety and professionalism in the practice of medicine.
- Seeding an interest in quality, safety and professionalism improvements at a private practice level.
- Engaging the profession in the broader objectives of quality, safety and professionalism.
- Supporting doctors to develop capabilities in quality improvement, safety and professionalism.
- Supporting doctors to develop as leaders who can lead change in the healthcare system, with a focus on quality improvement.

To pursue these objectives Avant and the Avant Foundation invite applications for funding under specific programs aligned to the core vision. For 2023, The **focus areas** include:

- Initiatives that develop and support leadership capability, especially those focused on quality improvement in medicine.
- Academic research in the domains of quality and professionalism 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.

## Priority research topics for 2023

**Priority research topics** include:

- Doctors' health and wellbeing
- Telehealth and virtual care
- Fragmentation of care
- Medical leadership/quality improvement leadership
- Understanding patient complaints
- Prescribing, including drugs of dependence and e-prescribing

## Eligibility

Avant Foundation Grant applications are open to entities that are charities within the meaning of the *Charities Act 2013* (Cth) and hold an endorsed Deductible Gift Recipients (DGR) (Charity Criteria). These may include (but are 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,

provided they meet the Charity Criteria above.

Avant Grant applications are open to:

- a. Medical practices that hold (at the time of application and throughout the project period) a practice medical indemnity policy with Avant Insurance Limited (ACN 003 707 471), or
- b. Medical practices that hold a current subscription to PracticeHub, or
- c. Medical practitioners:
  - who hold (at the time of application and throughout the project period) a professional indemnity insurance policy with Avant Insurance Limited (excluding Intern/RMO and Doctor in Training policies) in a practitioner category of practice;
  - who are an Australian citizen, New Zealand citizen or permanent resident of Australia and based in Australia; and
  - who are a practising medical practitioner registered with the Medical Board of Australia;

Medical practitioners applying for an Avant Grant must be project leaders responsible for the design, execution and management of the project. If the project involves other people you must confirm their 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.

Notwithstanding the above, none of the following will be eligible for Avant Foundation Grants or Avant Grants:

- a. an organisation controlled by a director, manager or employee of Avant or its related bodies corporate;
- b. an organisation that employs a director, manager or employee of Avant or its associated organisations, with the exception of persons employed by Avant or its associated organisations as a medical adviser; or
- c. an immediate family member of a director, manager or employee of Avant or its associated organisations.

## Stages for grant assessment

There are two stages of the process:

- Stage one – Expression of interest.
- Stage two – Submission of a full application.

### Stage one – Expression of interest

Expressions of interest (EOI) open at 12pm (AEDT) on Monday 14 November 2022 and close at 11.59pm (AEDT) on Monday 27 February 2023. Expressions of interest received after the close of the EOI period will not be considered. All EOIs must be completed through the online grants portal together with any additional information requested by Avant or the Avant Foundation. Applicants will be required to create an account in the grants portal in order to commence an application.

If submitting on behalf of an entity, by submitting an EOI you agree you are authorised to do so as a representative of the entity, and agree to be bound to the terms and conditions on behalf of the entity.

The EOI will assess how well the applicant's project aligns with the objectives and purpose of the Avant Foundation Grants and Avant Grants. 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, project timeframes and funding requirements.

For each of these grants, a Judging Panel will review the EOI and create a shortlist of applicants who will be invited to participate in stage two. Those submitting an EOI will be notified of the outcome via the email address provided in the EOI by 23 March 2023.

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

### Stage two – Submission of an application

If you are shortlisted after stage one, you will be notified and invited to submit a more detailed application. On or around 14 April 2023 via email.

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

Avant Foundation Grant applicants must provide evidence, in the application process, that they meet the Charity Criteria.

The completed application will need to be submitted by 5pm (AEST) on Friday 2 June 2023. Late submissions will not be considered or accepted.

## Changes in project details prior to award of Avant Foundation Grant or Avant Grant

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

Similarly, if there is a material change to the applicant's project scope, the applicant must immediately notify Avant or the Avant Foundation (as applicable) of the proposed change, 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 Avant Foundation and Avant Grants Program;
- project rationale and relevance;
- project scalability and sustainability;
- project timeframes;
- project budget.

Grant recipients will be chosen based on the information provided during both stages of the assessment process. The Avant Foundation and Avant reserve the right to request verification of information provided by the applicant.

The Avant Foundation and Avant may, in their absolute discretion:

- tour a facility as part of the assessment process where further clarity is required;
- request additional information from the applicant;
- award any grants at their absolute discretion;
- determine the grant amounts; and
- determine that no grants will be awarded in any funding round.

### Notification to grant recipients

Once a decision is made by the Avant Foundation or Avant on any matter related to the grants, that decision is final and not subject to review by the applicant. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications by email. Beyond notification of outcome, Avant and the Avant Foundation will not provide feedback on individual applications.

The Avant Foundation and Avant will determine the number of and the amount of any grants in their absolute discretion.

### Conditions for successful recipients

The expectation is that a funded 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).

### Funding agreements

Before receiving a grant, an Avant Foundation Grant or Avant Grant recipient will be required to execute an agreement, in the form provided by the Avant Foundation or Avant (as applicable).

### 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

Where applicable, evidence of ethics committee approval must be supplied by the successful grant recipient. Ethics approval must be secured within six months of award of the grant. The grant period cannot commence until approval is supplied. In the case where ethics approval is not required, the applicant must provide 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*'.

### Receipt of other grants or scholarships

Successful Avant Foundation Grant or Avant Grant recipients must provide information regarding any other funding awarded for their project within one month of additional funding being received.

### Payment of grants

To be eligible for payment of any grant, recipients must undertake the approved project within the project period or as otherwise approved in writing by Avant or the Avant Foundation (as applicable).

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 and after a final report has been provided.

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 grant recipient's 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 grants

Grant funds must be repaid in full within four weeks if Avant or the Avant Foundation becomes aware that the recipient:

- receives an overpayment 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 Avant in any form;
- breaches any of the terms and conditions stated herein or otherwise advised by Avant and the Avant Foundation; or
- abandons the research or the research is unable to be completed.

The award of an Avant Foundation Grant or Avant Grant is based on information provided by the applicant. 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 substantial change to the project timeline that would require the time period to be extended, the grant recipient must immediately notify Avant or the Avant Foundation (as applicable) 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.

Avant and the Avant Foundation may, at their sole discretion, cease to fund the remainder of the grant if the recipient fails to notify them of a substantial change in the project timeline. The recipient may also be required to repay the grant in full.

### *Scope*

If there is a substantial change to the project scope during the project period, the recipient must

immediately report the proposed change to Avant or the Avant Foundation (as applicable) in writing. Avant or the Avant Foundation may, at their sole discretion, cease to fund the remainder of the grant.

If the recipient fails to notify Avant or the Avant Foundation of a substantial change in the project scope, the recipient may be required to repay the grant in full.

### *Reporting requirements*

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, Avant and the Avant Foundation may, at their absolute discretion, request additional reports.

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

### *Promotion and media*

Grant recipients will, if required, work with an editorial team chosen by Avant or the Avant Foundation to enable them to publish the results or progress of their project in relevant publications.

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 or Avant (as applicable).

Upon request, grant recipients must present their findings at an Avant Foundation or Avant event.

If a recipient wishes to submit an article for publication reporting on the outcomes of the project, Avant or the Avant Foundation (as applicable) must receive a copy of the final manuscript before publication.

Grant recipients agree, to participate in any promotional activity (such as publicity and photography), and consent to Avant or the Avant Foundation (as applicable) 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 promoting the Avant Foundation Grants or Avant Grants (as applicable) now or in the future and, in relation to Avant Grant recipients, for promoting any products and services issued and/or supplied by Avant or its related bodies corporate.

Avant and the Avant Foundation agree that before they use the name, likeness, image and/or voice (including photograph, film and/or recording of the same) of the grant recipient in any promotional activity it will provide the materials it intends to use to the grant recipient to review for accuracy.

### *Intellectual property*

The grant recipient will own any intellectual property rights created while undertaking the project.

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

The grant recipient must obtain prior written consent from Avant or the Avant Foundation (as applicable) before using any Avant or Avant Foundation intellectual property, including any Avant and Avant Foundation logos and other branding.

### *Privacy*

Expressions of interest and applications for the Avant Foundation Grants and Avant Grants remain the property of Avant and the Avant Foundation. Personal information from EOI and applications may be collected, used and disclosed by Avant or the Avant Foundation (as applicable) in connection with the administration of their grants in subsequent years.

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



# Avant Foundation and Avant Grants 2023

Supporting you in making a difference

Apply today at [avantdifference.org.au](https://avantdifference.org.au)

Expressions of interest close 11.59 pm (AEDT) Monday 27 February 2023



[avantdifference.org.au](https://avantdifference.org.au)  
[avantgrants@avant.org.au](mailto:avantgrants@avant.org.au)  
1800 128 268

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