



Media release

12 August 2016

VOTE Trust grant applications open

Applications for funding are now open under the Victorian Optometrists Training and Education (VOTE) Trust.

The VOTE Trust, established in 2010 by the Optometrists Registration Board of Victoria, aims to advance and foster the practice of optometry and related techniques, procedures and policies, principally in Victoria, through research and education, to improve patient outcomes.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available under the scheme.

Optometry Board of Australia Chair, Ian Bluntish, said the scheme also seeks to improve Victorian optometrists' ability to practice and Victorian students' ability to undertake training principally in Victoria.

'The VOTE trust is looking to support projects that endeavour to benefit Victorian optometrists and their patients and display a broader benefit to optometrists and the public,' Mr Bluntish said.

Previous grants have gone to a study looking at the impact of supervised student consultations on patient acceptance and satisfaction in a public health eye clinic, and a clinical trial to treat people with age related macular degeneration (AMD).

More than \$87,000 has been provided to individuals and organisations since the start of the scheme.

Applications can be made until 5pm on 16 September 2016.

Further information, including preparing an application, guidelines and eligibility, are available from the [Optometry Board of Australia's website](#).