

Kim Oates

Kim Oates is a pediatrician who trained in Sydney, London and Boston. Most of his professional work has been associated with the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children (now The Children's Hospital at Westmead) and the University of Sydney. Previous posts at the Children's Hospital have included Community Pediatrician, Head of the Child Protection Unit, Head of the Child Development Unit and Children's Assessment Centre Director of Medical Services. He held the position of Chief Executive from 1997 to 2006.

It was as Chief Executive that he developed a passion for patient safety and ways to improve the quality of patient care.

Between 1985 and 1997 he held the Foundation Douglas Burrows Chair of Pediatrics and Child health at the University of Sydney as well as being Chairman of the Division of Medicine at the Children's Hospital. In this latter role he led a general medical team and conducted rural clinics on a regular basis throughout New South Wales, taking trainee pediatricians and medical students to introduce them to rural medicine in Australia.

He has a long-standing interest in child development, child behavior, the problems of child abuse neglect and advocacy on behalf of children.

He has been a past President of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. He was the inaugural chair of the New South Wales Child Death Review Team and the founding Chair of the Federal Government's National Council on the Prevention of Child Abuse. Throughout 1993 he was Director of the Kempe National Centre for the Prevention of Child Abuse in the USA. In 2000 he received the Kempe award from the USA for "outstanding contributions to the community on behalf of children", the first time this has been awarded outside the USA. He has received a range of international awards for his services to children.

He has written 13 books and has over 300 publications. One of his recent papers "The New Clinical Leader" sets out some views on the role of leadership in providing quality care.

He is currently Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Sydney and Director of Undergraduate Education at the Clinical Excellence Commission. In this latter role he has developed teaching modules for medical students which he now delivers in 4 medical schools, a major school of Allied Health and three Schools of Nursing, reaching over two thousand undergraduates each year. He has also initiated with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians for advanced trainee physicians to learn the technique of CPI and to undertake a CPI project as part of their Advanced Physician Training.