

Media Release

The Hon Luke Donnellan MP
Minister for Child Protection
Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers



Thursday, 23 September 2021

MORE MEN'S SHEDS TO BETTER SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH

More men across Victoria will be able to learn new skills, build friendships and give back to their communities, thanks to almost \$1 million in Victorian Government support for men's sheds.

The funding will go towards the construction of eight new sheds and the renovation of 21 others across regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne.

Four of the new constructions will enable new groups to form in the Colac-Otway, Campaspe, Swan Hill and the Mornington Peninsula communities.

Men's sheds improve the health and wellbeing of their memberships by reducing social isolation and promoting social inclusion.

Mt Duneed Men's Shed, one of the successful grant recipients, will receive \$80,000 towards a permanent home at the planned community complex in Armstrong Creek.

The grant will enable the group to convert a warehouse into a purpose-built shed, complete with separate woodwork and metalwork areas and a built-in dust extraction system for their growing membership.

The Mt Duneed shedders work together to complete a number of local projects all year round such as building garden beds for schools and local communities and making toys for charities in the lead up to Christmas.

The Labor Government provides \$1 million to support men's sheds each year, which includes \$130,560 to the Victorian Men's Shed Association.

There are currently more than 360 communities with men's sheds throughout Victoria.

The list of grant recipients is available at the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing website:

<https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/mens-shed-program>

Quotes attributable to Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, Luke Donnellan

"The Victorian Government proudly supports men's sheds because they provide a safe and busy environment where men can roll their sleeves up, build friendships and serve the local community."

"Humans are social beings that need community. After the year that's been, enabling social connection and supporting mental health is more important than ever before."

Quote attributable to the Victorian Men's Shed Association Chief Executive Officer Derek O'Leary

"Men's sheds make a powerful contribution to the health and wellbeing of Victorians, bringing individuals together and strengthening communities. These grants will help men's sheds grow and welcome new members to reap their benefits."

"We thank the Victorian Government for their continued support and ongoing commitment."