

Media Release

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



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STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMUNITIES WITH MEN'S SHED GRANTS

The Andrews Labor Government is strengthening men's wellbeing and community connections across Victoria, with further funding to establish, expand or improve men's sheds.

Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Luke Donnellan today opened applications for the 2021-22 men's shed grants round while visiting Bendigo Mensheds, which first received a grant of \$50,000 for the construction of a new shed in 2009 from the former Labor Government.

This men's shed in Long Gully has since grown into a factory-like hub with almost 70 financial members visiting regularly to use a library of tools and participate in woodwork and manual crafts.

Mensheds Bendigo was one of 277 sheds to receive a \$2,300 payment in 2020 as part of the Government's *Support for Men's Sheds* program to help groups bounce back following coronavirus restrictions. The program assisted men's sheds across the state with urgent expenses, enabling them to operate in a COVID-safe manner.

Men's sheds are safe and productive places where men can get together, work on common projects, form friendships and give back to their community.

Nearly \$900,000 will be available through the latest round of the men's sheds grants program. Men's shed groups can apply for a grant of up to \$80,000 for the construction of a new men's shed or the extension or refurbishment of an existing shed.

The Labor Government provides \$1 million to support men's sheds each year, which includes \$128,000 to the Victorian Men's Shed Association.

There are currently more than 360 communities with men's sheds throughout Victoria. For information about the 2021 Men's Shed Funding Program and how to apply, visit providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/mens-shed-program.

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

"These grants will support men's sheds to expand, refurbish and grow their membership numbers as men's sheds carefully re-open across Victoria as restrictions ease."

"Men's sheds can have extraordinary benefits for men's mental health and wellbeing by allowing them to build friendships and upskill in a welcoming environment."