## **Media Release**

Mr Colin Brooks MP

Minister for Child Protection and Family Services Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers



Thursday, 8 September 2022

## THE BIG REVEAL: BOOST FOR NEW AND IMPROVED MEN'S SHEDS

The Andrews Labor Government is continuing to support the work of Men's Sheds in improving the health and wellbeing of men, with further funding to build new spaces or extend and refurbish existing workshops.

Under the latest round of funding for the vital community hubs, the Labor Government is providing grants of up to \$80,000 for 30 Men's Sheds across the state.

Announced during Men's Shed Week, the grants will support men's sheds to provide a welcoming place where men of all ages can connect, socialise, learn new skills and work on common building projects together.

Men's sheds groups create practical and engaging spaces which support local communities in many ways, such as running first-aid courses, building picnic tables for local schools and making toys for local childcare groups.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all Victorians in different ways and these grants will give local communities an opportunity to establish a Men's Shed or undertake refurbishments to create safe, productive and accessible meeting places.

Grant recipients in the latest round include the Drouin Men's Shed, which will receive \$55,000 to build an additional shed for metalwork and engineering to expand the group's activities.

The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre Men's Shed, a new space that opened last year and serves as a pop-in centre for men who are receiving cancer treatment, will receive \$4,400.

Recipients also include the Chelsea Men's Shed, which will receive \$80,000 towards the construction of a new shed, which will operate six days a week to deliver more programs for people with disability.

There are currently more than 360 communities with Men's Sheds throughout Victoria.

The grant program is part of the Labor Government's \$1 million investment in Men's Sheds. To view the full list of grant recipients visit Men's Shed Program - DFFH Service Providers

## Quotes attributable to Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Colin Brooks

"Men's Sheds play an important role in providing a welcoming place for social connection, to learn new skills and contribute to the community and improve wellbeing."

"This investment will support upgrades for Men's Sheds throughout the state, delivering more opportunities for Victorians to reconnect after a difficult couple of years."

"These grants give local communities an opportunity to establish a men's shed or undertake refurbishments that will ensure an existing men's shed is fit for purpose so that safe, productive and accessible meeting places are available to our diverse men's sheds groups."

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