

Media Release

The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers
Minister for Child Protection and Family Services



Monday, 20 February 2023

HELPING FLOOD-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES RECONNECT

The Andrews Labor Government is helping Neighbourhood Houses and Men's Sheds in flood-affected communities repair damage caused by the devastating events of last October and November.

Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Lizzie Blandthorn today announced applications for the next round of the \$500,000 Rebuild and Reconnect grant program are now open.

The grants will help the Neighbourhood Houses and Men's Sheds – central players in their communities – continue to bring local people together to participate in recreational activities and deliver essential services.

During emergencies, Neighbourhood Houses provide critical support to communities through services including food relief. Men's Sheds support a range of community projects and local services, including the State Emergency Service and Country Fire Authority.

Five much-loved organisations received grants totalling \$142,000 from the first round of the program. They include:

- Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre – for repairs and replacement of furniture and equipment.
- Rochester Community House – for internal refurbishment to the building and equipment replacement for the house and Men's Shed.
- Echuca Neighbourhood House – for replacement of furniture and equipment.
- Charlton Neighbourhood House – for rectification of damage to doors, floors and walls and furniture replacement.
- Benalla Woodworkers Association and Men's Shed – for repair of electric motors for dust extractors

For information and to lodge an application for funding from the final Rebuild and Reconnect grant round, visit: providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-house-coordination-program. Applications close Friday, 3 March.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Lizzie Blandthorn

"Neighbourhood Houses and Men's Sheds bring towns and regions together, especially in times of community stress and emergency and that's why we're supporting these important groups."

"The Flood waters have subsided but the important work of recovery continues. There are new grants available through this program and I encourage eligible groups to make an application."

Quote attributable to Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes

"Neighbourhood Houses, Men's Sheds and community centres were crucial to helping regional Victorians during the floods and they know best what's needed to keep that help going. We're proud to be backing them to continue their important recovery work."

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