

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Community Sport
Minister for Carers and Volunteers



Tuesday, 4 June 2024

BUILDING THE TOOLS TO CONNECT MEN'S SHEDS ACROSS VICTORIA

The Allan Labor Government is making sure our men's sheds are the best they can be thanks to a new pilot project that will better connect sheds across the state.

Minister for Carers and Volunteers Ros Spence today announced \$100,000 for the Victorian Men's Shed Association to deliver the project which aims to increase engagement between sheds - boosting the sharing of knowledge and resources between men's sheds, to improve their work to support their local communities.

The Victorian Men's Shed Association will help design and plan how the project will be implemented.

While the design of the pilot is still to be determined it may look at online and in-person components, activities like regular meetings, training and information sessions and the development of new men's sheds resources.

Men's sheds are run by volunteers who donate their valuable time to create a safe space for men who are at risk of social isolation, providing opportunities for them to be involved in community projects, learn new skills and build friendships.

Activities for shedders are diverse and range from community projects such as making toys for local childcare groups to assisting with emergency responses and preparedness.

Research shows the supportive nature of men's sheds allow men to talk about health issues and seek support from their peers, improving health and wellbeing outcomes, particularly for older men.

The funding will support the work of thousands of volunteers who help run the more than 360 men's sheds across the state.

The pilot project is in addition to \$1 million delivered annually to upgrade men's sheds and support the work of the Victorian Men's Shed Association.

The Labor Government recently awarded grants of up to \$100,000 to 28 men's sheds to help build new sheds and fund extensions and refurbishments.

The Government has proudly provided 487 grants to men's sheds since 2015. To view the full list of grant recipients visit providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/mens-shed-program.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Carers and Volunteers Ros Spence

"This pilot will look at how to make sure men's sheds have the tools they need to forge connections right across the state - enabling this important network to share knowledge and resources with each other."

"Men's sheds are an essential part of the social fabric of so many communities right across Victoria, providing an opportunity for men to connect and build friendships. I'm excited to see this pilot program roll out and begin connecting our diverse network of men's sheds with each other."