

Media Release

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



Wednesday, 7 August 2024

SUPPORTING MEN TO BUILD FRIENDSHIPS AND COMMUNITIES

The Allan Labor Government is supporting the health and wellbeing of local communities with grants to build and improve men's sheds in Victoria.

Minister for Carers and Volunteers Ros Spence today visited Lalor & District Men's Shed to announce the opening of applications for the 2024-25 Men's Shed Funding Program grants.

Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to build new men's sheds – which includes converting a building into a men's shed – and refurbish, extend or upgrade existing men's sheds.

The Lalor & District Men's Shed received \$31,253 last year to install a solar system and upgrade lighting, dust extraction and kitchen equipment to improve their financial and environmental sustainability.

Benambra Neighbourhood House also received funding to build Benambra Men's Shed enabling the local community to connect, socialise, learn new skills and work on projects that give back to the community.

Badger Creek & District Men's Shed received funding to replace a staircase, and the Wangaratta District Men's Shed were able to extend their Shed thanks to these grants.

The Labor Government is enabling Men's Sheds to provide a strong support system for men at every stage of life, through the ability to work on meaningful projects, talk about issues and seek support from peers in a healthy and inclusive environment.

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.

There are more than 350 men's sheds across Victoria, with an estimated 20,000 engaged members.

Applications for Men's Shed Funding Program grants are open until 16 October 2024. For more information or to apply, visit vic.gov.au/mens-shed-funding-program.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Carers and Volunteers Ros Spence

"We're investing up to \$860,000 in Men's Shed Program grants this year to enable men's sheds right across the state to upgrade or build new facilities."

"We know that men's sheds improve the lives of their members and create lasting social connections. We're proud to support them as they continue to have a hugely positive impact on more than 20,000 members in every corner of Victoria."

Quote attributable to Member for Thomastown Bronwyn Halfpenny

"These grants will go a long way in supporting men's sheds to continue their important work in the community."