

Media Release

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



Friday, 9 May 2025

BACKING MEN'S SHEDS TO GROW AND THRIVE

The Allan Labor Government is backing men's health and wellbeing with new grants to strengthen and expand men's sheds across the state.

Minister for Carers and Volunteers Ros Spence this week visited Darebin Men's Shed to announce that applications are open for the 2025–26 Men's Shed Funding Program.

More than \$860,000 is available to build new sheds, upgrade or extend existing facilities, and purchase machinery and equipment to help sheds grow and thrive.

Darebin Men's Shed has long brought locals together through gardening, woodworking and its innovative bike workshop – a hub for fixing up donated bikes and sharing skills.

The program prioritises projects that tackle social isolation and deliver real value for local communities – especially in areas with limited spaces for people to come together.

Past recipients include Mount Alexander Vintage Engine Club, which is building a new, purpose-built shed for community activities, and Clunes Neighbourhood House in Hepburn Shire, where a new men's shed will support young men to build friendships and learn practical skills.

With more than 360 men's sheds across Victoria, these spaces continue to provide connection, inclusion and support for men who might otherwise be at risk of isolation.

The Labor Government's Men's Shed Funding Program has provided more than 500 grants to support sheds and support the Victorian Men's Shed Association.

For more information or to apply, visit: providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/mens-shed-program.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Carers and Volunteers Ros Spence

"Men's sheds are so much more than just buildings – they're places where friendships are formed, skills are shared and people look out for one another."

"We're proud to support the incredible work Men's Sheds do in local communities across Victoria – helping men stay connected, healthy and supported."

Quote attributable to Member for Preston Nathan Lambert

"Based in the new Bagung Kertheba Dhumba community hub, the Darebin's Men's Shed program offers a welcoming space where men from a diverse range of backgrounds can share skills, build friendships and stay connected."