



MEDIA RELEASE

Funding boost for Mens Sheds in the New England Electorate

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FEDERAL Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce said the Men's Shed organisations in the New England Electorate would benefit from the Abbott Government's Father's Day announcement to secure funding for the organisation until 2019.

Mr Joyce said Round 11 of the National Shed Development Programme was currently open and the Men's sheds in the Electorate could apply for up to \$8,000 in funding. Applications for round 11 closes on September 18.

"Our local Men's sheds play a very important role in our community to keep men active and contributing to their mental health and physical wellbeing," Mr Joyce said.

"To provide certainty, the Abbott Government has guaranteed funding for Men's Sheds for a further three years to 2019.

"The decision to guarantee funding will allow men's sheds to maintain their shed, buy new tools or start new projects. It's great news for the sheds and the men who use them."

The \$4.5 million commitment over the next three years will also assist the Australian Men's Sheds Association to develop and maintain relationships and linkages with health providers and employ strategies to more effectively reach and engage men.

Mr Joyce said Men's Sheds in the New England Electorate reduced social isolation, particularly for older men and people living in rural and remote areas.

Applications for grants are assessed by the Australian Men's Shed Association, in accordance with guidelines agreed by the Department of Health. All sheds are eligible to apply for funding under the National Shed Development Programme (NSDP). Grants are awarded on a competitive basis up to a total of \$8,000 (GST exclusive), with priority given to sheds in disadvantaged areas.

Sheds are able to apply across three funding categories – tools, equipment, community projects and training; building maintenance and development; and health improvement activities

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Hon **Barnaby Joyce** MP

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