



The Place To Be

# Media release

Geoff Howard MLA, Member for Ballarat East

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## **BRUMBY GOVERNMENT JOINS MENS SHEDS IN BUILDING VICTORIAN COMMUNITIES**

Men's Sheds in the Ballarat East Electorate are encouraged join the Brumby Government in getting together to build or renovate a shed in their local area that will build connections within their community.

Geoff Howard MP has encouraged Men's Sheds in the Ballarat East Electorate which includes Ballarat, Creswick, Ballan and Daylesford to apply for funding as part of the Brumby Government's \$2 million *Men's Shed* grant program.

"The Brumby Government is taking action to help people better connect with their neighbourhoods, to build stronger families and stronger communities," Geoff Howard said.

"Men's Sheds provide a relaxed place for men to make new friends, talk things over, learn new skills and get involved in the (local area) local community, with great benefits to their individual health and well being, as well as the community.

"After building a Men's Shed, those involved change their focus to building items for the local community, whether that be a park bench for a local park or a cubby house for a local kinder. "

Senior Victorians Minister Lisa Neville launched the 2009 *Men's Sheds* grant program saying sheds not only had practical benefits to the local community.

"As well as giving older men somewhere to get together and work, men's sheds can link men to information and services for a range of health and well being related issues - which they often don't actively seek out themselves," Ms Neville said.

Last year the Brumby Government funded the establishment of 25 new Men's Sheds.

"Victoria led the nation by being the first government to provide specific funding for the establishment of the sheds," Ms Neville said.

The Brumby Government has invested \$2 million over four years in the *Men's Shed* grant program as part of the \$1 billion *Fairer Victoria* initiative; a whole of Government social policy action plan to address disadvantage and promote inclusion and participation.

For more information or to apply for the *Men's Sheds* grants, please visit [www.grants.dpcd.vic.gov.au](http://www.grants.dpcd.vic.gov.au) Applications close on May 22.

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