



Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

25 September 2018

Devonport and Burnie Men's Sheds to be Upgraded

The Devonport Men's Shed has been awarded a grant of \$2,500 from the Morrison Government for new digital equipment while the Burnie Men's Shed is set to receive \$3,545 for soundproofing upgrades under round 17 of the Government's National Shed Development Programme.

Senator for Tasmania the Hon Richard Colbeck today congratulated the Men's Sheds for their successful applications.

"Like similar sheds across Australia, the Devonport and Burnie sheds offer support to any local men who need a bit of space and some friendly, easy-going company," Senator Colbeck said.

"Men are often the last ones to make their health and wellbeing a priority. It's imperative that we do what we can to ensure they get the support they need and deserve.

"The Morrison Government recognises these benefits and is investing a total of \$5.1 million over three years to the national men's sheds movement."

Burnie Men's Shed will use its Government grant to install Stratco soundproofing sheets to minimize workshop noise in the cribroom.

Devonport Men's Shed will use its Government grant to purchase a computer, software and a printer to keep their members connected.

"Men are talking about their health more and more, and men's sheds provide a safe and friendly environment for them to do so. Men's sheds have grown in number from around 200 in 2005 to over 930 today and are integral to the community, while the benefits to men's health are widely acknowledged," Senator Colbeck said.

"This week is Men's Shed Week and I encourage men to get down to their local sheds and enjoy what these great community groups have to offer."

Health Minister Greg Hunt said feeling part of a social group is important to our emotional and mental health.

"Every day Men's Sheds across Australia and in Tasmania's North West provide men with an opportunity for companionship and support within their community," Minister Hunt said.

The Men's Shed grants programme provides funding for health improvement activities, the purchase of tools and equipment, community projects and training, and for building maintenance and development.

ENDS

Media Contact: Felix Ellis 0457 517 734

Authorised by Senator Richard Colbeck, 5-7 Best St, Devonport TAS 7310