



Australian Men's Shed Association
SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SHED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

*Administered on behalf of the Australian Government
by
the Australian Men's Shed Association*

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Which organisations can apply for a Men's Shed Project under the Australian Government Shed Development Program (the Program)?

Any community-based organisation that is a legal or registered entity (eg. an Association or Incorporated body) that wishes to establish a new Shed or improve an existing Men's Shed.

These can include any Men's Sheds, Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs and any other community-based organisation that can specifically offer 'shed-type' activities.

In circumstances where an overseeing body is applying for program funding on behalf of a Shed, a **Memorandum of Understanding** must be in place to show that the particular Shed has agreed to the activities proposed in the application form.

Comprehensive information about eligibility is contained on page 4 of the Round 3 Australian Government Shed Development Program Guidelines that are available on www.mensshed.org.

The Program is open to all Sheds across Australia regardless of whether it is affiliated with a particular organisation or not.

2. What are 'shed-type' activities?

The primary activity of a Men's Shed is to provide a safe, friendly and inclusive environment where males are able to gather and work on meaningful projects at their own pace, in their own time and in the company of other males.

Typical Shed activities involve building projects using a variety of tools and equipment that are often found in a backyard shed. These activities can be expanded to other hands-on projects according to the aspirations of particular groups of males within a particular Shed.

Shed-type activities can also be conducted online through Virtual Sheds to create a virtual social community that serves to overcome geographical barriers, especially for males living in rural and remote locations. Virtual Sheds can also provide an alternative environment for sharing information for those males who are not comfortable in participating in physical Shed settings. Males can connect with other Sheds, share information on a variety of topics such as DIY information on how to build a range of projects, everyday life skills, health and well-being information or other related topics of interest.

The Shed Online provides such a forum: <http://www.theshedonline.org.au/>

3. Can our community-based organisation apply for Program funding to build a new Men's Shed?

No. The building of new shed and premises is not supported under this Program.

4. How does a community-based organisation apply for Program funding to assist a new or improve an existing Men's Shed project?

- Two funding rounds are scheduled each financial year (1 July to 30 June) under the Program.
- Those community-based organisations wishing to apply for funding for a Men's Shed Project under the Program should monitor the Australian Men's Shed Association's (AMSA) website for information on upcoming rounds at: www.mensshed.org/
- Downloadable copies of the Round 3 Program Guidelines and Application Forms are available on the AMSA website when a specific Round is open.

- Applicants should provide FIVE (5) copies of the Application Form and ONE (1) copy of all supporting documentation and these should be posted to:

Round 3

Australian Government Shed Development Program

Australian Men's Shed Association

PO Box 68

WINDALE NSW 2306

5. Can AMSA staff assist individual projects to complete the applications for funding?

No. To ensure fairness and equity, AMSA staff cannot assist individual organisations complete their application forms.

However, they may answer technical questions relating to the application process.

6. How many times and how much can a community-based organisation apply for funding?

There are three categories of funding available under the Program:

-Category One: *Tools & Equipment* (previously named *Workspace Development*) to a maximum of \$4,000

-Category Two: *Building Maintenance & Development* (previously named *Building & Operational*) to a maximum of \$6,000

-Category Three: *Shed Activities & Programs* (new category) to a maximum of \$5,000.

Community-based organisations can apply for funding in one or more categories where the total of all their applications does not exceed \$10,000 per funding round.

Sheds successful in gaining funding in one category will not be able to re-apply for funding in this same category until the following financial year.

However, Sheds can continue to apply for funding in those categories where funding was not granted.

7. Can a community-based organisation apply for the same Men's Shed Project that it applied for in a previous round?

Yes. Community-based organisations that applied for a particular Men's Shed Project in a previous funding round can re-apply for funding for the same purpose:

- In all categories if unsuccessful in all categories from the previous round
- In all categories if successful in a previous round from a different financial year.

For example, a Shed successful in gaining funding to improve its woodwork workspace has generated a significant amount of interest amongst its shedders. The shedders are now wishing to create a greater number and range of woodwork projects and have to wait for lengthy periods of time before they can use the equipment. A second woodwork workspace would be welcomed to address this demand.

8. Do community-based organisations need to submit a new application form for each funding round even if it was unsuccessful in a previous funding round?

Yes. An important feature of the Program is its flexibility in responding to changing/emerging Shed needs and that the Program Guidelines and Application Form may be modified to better respond to those needs (eg. Sheds in Australia that were adversely affected in a recent natural disaster[s] were considered a priority in the Second Funding Round).

For this reason different application information and assessment criteria may apply for each round.

9. Do Sheds have to belong to a Shed organisation?

No. The Program is open to all Sheds across Australia regardless of whether it is affiliated with a particular organisation or not. However, there are benefits available from joining a Shed organisation.

10. What is the evaluation process?

Comprehensive information about the Evaluation Process is contained on pages 9 and 10 of the Round 3 Australian Government Shed Development Program Guidelines that are available on www.mensshed.org.

Information has been provided about the application process from lodgement of application through to the announcement of successful applicants.

On receipt, each application is allocated a coded identifier.eg BMD/336/11- this indicates Category of Application, numerical order in which application was lodged, year.

All eligible applications are evaluated by an independent panel using an agreed selection criteria based on the Program Guidelines.

11. Will individual feedback be provided to applicants?

No. Individual feedback cannot be provided due to the widespread interest in the Program and the expected large volume of applications that are received.

12. How will applicants be informed of the outcomes?

- The AMSA website will publish a list of the successful applicants following the finalisation of the outcomes of each round.
- Following the public announcement, letters will be sent to all unsuccessful applicants.
- Letters and Funding Agreements will be sent to all successful applicants.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. PRIOR TO POSTING YOUR APPLICATION PLEASE ENSURE THAT:

- ALL QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED

-ALL ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTATION REQUESTED IN

THE APPLICATION FORM IS ATTACHED.

2. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS ARE ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THE EVALUATION PANEL.

3. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED - THE POSTAGE DATE STAMP WILL INDICATE POSTAGE DATE AND THUS DETERMINE WHETHER AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED ON TIME.