



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA • THE SENATE  
SENATOR THE HON. ARTHUR SINODINOS AO  
Senator for New South Wales

**MEDIA RELEASE**

8 September 2015

**Funding security for Men's Sheds**

Senator the Hon. Arthur Sinodinos today said local Men's Sheds in the electorate of Newcastle would benefit from the Abbott Government's Father's Day announcement to secure funding for the organisation until 2019.

Senator Sinodinos said Round 11 of the National Shed Development Programme (NSDP) was currently open and the local Newcastle Men's Shed could apply for up to \$8,000 in funding. Applications for round 11 closes on September 18.

"Newcastle Men's Shed plays a very important role in our community to keep men active and contributing to their mental health and physical wellbeing," Senator Sinodinos 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.

Senator Sinodinos said Men's Sheds reduce 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 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.

Round 11 of the NSDP is currently open for applications. Sheds are able to apply for up to a total of \$8,000 across three funding categories – tools, equipment, community projects and training; building maintenance and development; and health improvement activities.

Media contact: Fiona Brown 02 9223 4388