



Dear Shedders,

We hope you are all doing well through this period of Shed closure and social distancing.

The AMSA team is still operating from our homes to help Men's Sheds and shedders get through this time. It's also a challenging time for us, as we look at ways to convert the social connectedness the Shed offers into what is mostly an online offering. Nothing will ever really replace visiting the Shed, but we can all do things to help us stay connected, positive and active during this time.

You may be aware that we recently launched *The AMSA Shed Online*. We built this platform in response to the requirement for sheds to close, based on The Shed Online which was a collaboration between AMSA, Beyond Blue and The Movember Foundation in 2012. It's only a basic platform – I'm sure you can appreciate time was not on our side – but we do hope that it offers some opportunity for conversations and cross-pollination of ideas, projects and support across the international Men's Shed community.

Coming soon is our very first podcast series of *The Shed Wireless*. Our goal is to bring Shed conversations to your kitchen table, lounge room – or even the backyard shed, with interesting and relevant guests and topics. More to come as we are closer to launching this project.

We know in only delivering our services in an online format, we are missing out on connecting with so many shedders – it's a challenge that we are looking for ways to overcome. Sheds are doing a great job with communication trees and buddy systems and AMSA staff have also been working through welfare calls to our members. We have put together a list of handy tools to help you stay connected with shed mates over at The AMSA Shed Online.

We're working on some initiatives to remind vulnerable shedders that we're here and thinking of them. Whilst we don't have all the details yet – if you're aware of any members

who are particularly vulnerable during this time, please check on them and flag it with us so we can get in touch once we've made progress on what we're doing. You can simply email us at amsa@mensshed.net.

We've had a number of enquiries about rent relief for Men's Sheds. We are aware of this issue and will be raising it with the Federal Government. We also ask that you communicate this issue to your State and Federal Members, as you may be able to find some assistance and this will also help AMSA in seeking support from the Government. We will keep you informed of any developments.

As you would be aware we have been working with the Federal Treasurer, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and the Australian Charities & Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) on enabling Men's and Women's Sheds to be able to qualify as charitable organisations and obtain Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

Referring to the below correspondence, the Department of Treasury was able to confirm with AMSA that due to the Parliamentary calendar being interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, this legislation will not be passed into law. Although this is very disappointing, under the current circumstances it is understandable. We will continue to work with these Government bodies to ensure that Men's Sheds are well prepared once the legislation is passed.

If you require any assistance or advice in regards to DGR, or any other shed related matter, please contact us on 1300 550 009 or at amsa@mensshed.net.

Our best regards,
David Helmers

Department of Treasury: DGR Status for Men's Sheds

Legislative amendments to create a new general DGR category for sheds have not yet been introduced before the Parliament due to the sitting calendar being interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the reduced sitting days for 2020 we are unable to provide an estimated timeframe for when the new DGR category will be reflected in law.

This means the proposed DGR category for sheds will not be available until the tax law is amended and passed through parliament. Donors will not be able to claim a tax deduction for gifts made to a shed until the law is passed and the shed is DGR endorsed.

Sheds intending to seek DGR endorsement can prepare for the application process by reviewing their governing documents to make sure they will meet charity and DGR requirements. This can make the application process smoother when the time comes to apply once the legislation is in place.

As sheds will need to be registered as charities before they can apply for DGR endorsement, sheds may like to consider applying to be registered as a charity before the legislation is passed. Although, charity registration will not entitle a shed to apply for DGR endorsement under the proposed new category until the legislation comes into effect.

Please note that charity registration involves ongoing obligations to the ACNC, including record-keeping and annual reporting.

Further information

Sheds seeking guidance on DGR endorsement, including documentation requirements, can contact the ATO Not-for-profit helpline on 1300 130 248 between 8:00am and 6:00pm (AEDT), Monday to Friday.

Sheds seeking information about charity registration are encouraged to consult the ACNC website at: acnc.gov.au.

A registration application checklist is available [here](#).

Information about charity obligations can be found [here](#).

If you have further questions, there is an online enquiry form available that will be directed to the ACNC's Advice Services team.

Grants & Funding

Energy Efficient Grants

The Energy Efficient Communities Program – Community Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants 2020 provides community groups with grants up to \$12,500 for energy efficient equipment, energy generation and storage systems, and energy audits. Applications are now open and the Department has placed a cap on the number of successful applications.

Important:

- There will be a maximum of 2 projects funded per electorate, with the first 2 eligible projects funded.
- The Department will monitor the number of applications received from each electorate and 'close electorates' once we have received 6 applications per electorate.
- While only the first 2 eligible applications, based on time and date will be funded, the Department will allow up to 6 in the event there are any that are ineligible.

[Click here for more info.](#)

The Australian Government Department of Health National Shed Development Programme

Round 20

All applications have been processed and are now with the Evaluation Panel. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Department later in the month.

Round 19 Acquittals

Due to Shed closures, many activities funded in Round 19 had to be postponed. The Acquittal template will be forwarded when Sheds re-open. If your activity has been completed, you are welcome to email amsa@mensshed.net and we will forward the template through to you.

The AMSA Shed Online

Visiting the shed is an important part of the week for many men and women. Whilst COVID-19 has forced the closure of thousands of sheds across 12 countries, staying in touch and connected is more important than ever.

So, in partnership with the Irish Men's Shed Association and International Mens Sheds Organisation, we invite the Men's Shed community to join in conversation at The AMSA Shed Online: www.mensshed.org/theshedonline.

The goal of The AMSA Shed Online is help people connect in the same way they do at the shed – over a cuppa and a laugh.

“The shed's themselves may be temporarily closed as part of the response to COVID-19 but the mission of helping people stay connected does not change,” said AMSA Patron His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) in a recent message to Men's Shed members.

The AMSA Shed Online is a simple online space for men to stay connected at a time when community connection is increasingly difficult, but still vitally important to our health and wellbeing.

We hope to create a global social community where men can talk and share their experiences - a global information exchange. And whilst the AMSA Shed Online has been built with the Men's Shed community in mind, we're inviting anyone with an interest to join the conversation.

We encourage all your members to register and join the conversation at The AMSA Shed Online: www.mensshed.org/theshedonline.



