



## **Victorian Men's Shed Association Inc**

**Postal:** P.O. Box 211 Bulleen Vic 3105

**Email:** [pres@vmsa.org.au](mailto:pres@vmsa.org.au)

**Web:** [www.vmsa.org.au](http://www.vmsa.org.au)

**Incorporation No:** A0055228H

16.09.2020

### Special Bulletin:

### FOR ALL SHEDS

#### **SHEDS ARE TO REMAIN CLOSED.**

The VMSA received official advice this morning after the VMSA had written to the Dept. of Health and Human Services. The VMSA received a reply from Dan Pennefather, DHHS Senior Project Officer, Community Participation, Disability and Communities Branch, that is included in this advice to ALL Sheds.

- **Men's Sheds across Victoria should remain closed until further notice.**
- **Men's Sheds are considered community facilities under the roadmap to re-opening (how we work) – and are restricted under Step 3. Shed participants are a high-risk health population and the need for hygiene, sanitation and physical distancing measures to be applied correctly is paramount.**
- **The VMSA is working with the Department of Health and Human Services to confirm the date for the lifting of restrictions to the point where Sheds can safely re-open.**
- **As with businesses, Sheds should have a COVID-Safe Plan in place to ensure the safe return of Men's Shed activities when it is time to re-open.**
- **The VMSA will be placing advice and recommended guidelines following the Covid Safe Plan on its website shortly to assist Sheds and to enable Sheds to re-open when authorised.**

#### **Special thanks to all Sheds and Shedders**

Please pass on the VMSA's grateful thanks to your Shedders for how they have coped with the lock down for their perseverance. The VMSA continues to hear remarkable and many untold stories before of how Shedders are coping, communicating and caring for each other in their Sheds as well as for others in their community.

#### **DGR STATUS FOR SHEDS**

Sheds interested in applying for Charity and DGR Status are encouraged to read this document from the ATO web site. The VMSA participated and has been active in enabling Sheds to gain DGR status.

#### **Community sheds**

Community sheds (such as men's sheds and women's sheds) are not-for-profit organisations that provide a range of activities for their members with the purpose of advancing mental health and preventing or relieving social isolation.

From 1 October 2020, a new general category of deductible gift recipients (DGR) for community sheds will be available. Donors who donate \$2 or more to a deductible gift recipient (DGR) endorsed community shed will generally be able to claim an income tax deduction.

This information explains the requirements that a community shed must satisfy to be endorsed by us as a DGR.

## **On this page:**

- • Characteristics
- • Eligibility criteria
- • Applying to be DGR endorsed
- • Obligations as a DGR endorsed community shed

## **Characteristics:**

A community shed is a public institution that has all the following characteristics:

- • the dominant purposes are advancing mental health and preventing or relieving social isolation
- • purposes are advanced principally by o providing a physical location
- supporting individuals to work on projects or undertake other activities in the company of others at that location
- • it has either
- o open membership or
- o membership open to persons of a particular gender or with Indigenous heritage or both.

## **After you apply:**

What you can expect when we process your DGR application:

- • We will contact you to confirm we have received your application, and if we require further information.
- • While your application is being processed, donations you receive are not tax-deductible.
- • It may take up to 28 days for us to process your application, after receiving all required information.
- • You will receive a notification of your application outcome in the mail.
- Once you are DGR endorsed: o your DGR status will be added to the ABN lookup External Link on the Australian Business Register, so donors can confirm your shed can receive tax deductible gifts you can update your website or material advising of your tax-deductible status.

## **Obligations as a DGR endorsed Community Shed:**

You must keep records that explain all transactions and activities relevant to your organisation's status as a DGR.

Your records must show that you have used all your gifts and deductible contributions for your DGR purpose.

We recommend you conduct a review of your organisation's eligibility for DGR status each year or when there is a substantial change in your activities. You can use our worksheet to review your DGR status.

You must tell us in writing if your organisation is no longer entitled to DGR endorsement. You must do this before, or as soon as possible after, the entitlement ends.

## **Next steps: The VMSA would encourage Sheds to register to attend the webinars below on the Australian Tax Office website for Community Sheds.**

- • Register to attend External Link our webinar on the new DGR category for community sheds, on 21 September, 11.00am–12:30pm (AEST).
- • Register to attend External Link the ACNC webinar, 'Community sheds, charity registration and DGR' on 14 October, from midday to 1.00pm (AEDT)

**If Sheds have any queries please contact the Tax Office, or the Charities Commission, or the VMSA President and the VMSA will pass your queries on to the VMSA's independent Accountants.**

Lindsay Oates.

President.

E-Mail: [pres@vmsa.org.au](mailto:pres@vmsa.org.au)

Phone: [0408 343 531](tel:0408343531).