



MEDIA RELEASE

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Wynyard Men's Shed/Community Shed Opening

Murchison MLC welcomes the opening of the Wynyard Men's Shed, which will also be utilised as a Community Shed, will be officially opened at 2pm today. This project has been the vision and passion of Mr Peter Massey, a teacher at the Wynyard High School and is within Wynyard High School grounds.

"A facility such as this has many benefits for the community, particularly in the area of health and wellbeing. Evidence from around Australia has shown many benefits particularly in the area of mental health, a growing area of need in rural communities" Ms Forrest stated.

"This facility will provide many opportunities for men, their sons and mates to meet together in an alcohol and smoke free area to get involved in an activity, play pool, undertake a project or just make friends and socialise" Ms Forrest said.

Funding has been provided by the Federal Government through Regional Partnerships, State and Local Government as well as financial and in kind support from many individuals, community groups, service clubs and businesses both in the Wynyard area and beyond.

"Whilst there is nothing new about men spending time in their backyard shed, it is very much an 'Aussie male' thing, but for men who don't have their own, such as when they retire and move into a smaller home, live in a rented home that doesn't have a shed or simply can't afford the tools etc that are an essential part of a shed or any other of a number of reasons, this shed can help fill that gap" Ms Forrest stated.

"A men's shed can provide a local "community meeting place" to socialise and an opportunity to provide information about a variety of men's health issues and promote a number of illness prevention and health and wellbeing messages in a safe, non-threatening environment" Ms Forrest stated.

"This facility will also be able to be utilised by the broader community as a Community Shed, and thus the benefits for men attending a men's shed will be able to be extended to the community at large" Ms Forrest stated.

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