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| Higher Education and Skills Group**Participation Branch Memo****Department of Education and Training** |

***NUMBER:*** *2016 / February / 08*

**TO:**

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| Learn Local organisations  | ACFE Board | ACFE Regional Councils |
| Adult Education Institutions | Learn Local stakeholders  | Participation Branch Staff |

**FROM:** Jane Dewildt, Acting Director, Participation Branch

**DATE:** 8 February 2016

**SUBJECT: Information on Men’s Sheds 2016 Grant Applications**

**ACTIONS/CRITICAL DATES:**

* *Opportunity to apply for the 2016 Men’s Sheds Grant for funding to construct or refurbish men’s sheds.*
* *Information session on* ***11 February****, draft applications due on* ***6 April*** *and final applications due on* ***27 May.***

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The Victorian Government has announced $1 million to assist incorporated, not-for-profits and local councils to build or refurbish men’s sheds. These grants will play an important role in enhancing the health and well-being of men, particularly in drought, flood and fire affected areas, by providing a safe and friendly place where men can regularly meet, socialise and participate in their communities. The men’s shed program is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

**Amount and use of grants**

Organisations without existing men’s sheds can receive up to $60,000 for:

* the construction of new men’s sheds
* redeveloping an existing building into a men’s shed
* co-locating a men’s shed within a multifunction community facility or hub

Organisations with existing men’s sheds can receive up to $30,000 in refurbishment grants for:

* modifications to meet health and safety and/or disability access standards
* meeting public access needs
* increasing shed capacity and
* expanding activities based on community demand

The grant guidelines are available via the following link: <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/958788/Mens-Sheds-Guidleines-2016.pdf>

Interested Learn Local organisations are encouraged to read the Guidelines and attend an information session. Key dates for the Grant program are below.

**Time-Line**

* *Information session*: 11 February 2016, 10:30am-12:30pm, Conference Rm 1, Level 1 conference centre, 242 Exhibition St, Melbourne 3000. Contact Daniel.pennefather@dhhs.vic.gov.au or 9096 7515 to register.
* *Draft applications*: 6 April 2016 to the DHHS Community Participation contact in your area.
* *Final applications*: 27 May 2016 to your DHHS Local Connections Team.
* *Announcement of successful applicants*: mid 2016.

For further information, please contact your DHHS Local Connections Team in your area (details are in the Grant Guidelines).