



Australian Government National Shed Development Programme Round Fourteen November 2016 'Frequently Asked Questions'

1. What further changes have been implemented to the NSDP and why they have been introduced?

Since 2010 the NSDP has experienced changes to align with current Australian Government Policy and reflect the needs of Men's Sheds. These changes have included:

- Category descriptions
- What will be funded
- Additional Priority groups
- Selection Criteria

In 2016 the NSDP underwent a comprehensive Evaluation- in response to the feedback from Men's Sheds, the AMSA and Department of Health, the final findings have recommended further changes that will be implemented from Round 14.

a. The Application Form

A major finding of the NSDP Evaluation highlighted the need to simplify the application process. The original three application forms based on Category have now been eliminated and one template developed to enable applicants to include **all** requests across the previous three categories onto **one** Application Form.

b. Maximum Funding

Applicants can apply for a combination of items/services across the previous three categories to a **maximum of \$10,000**.

c. Open Timeframe

Applicants will have **7 weeks** in which to complete and lodge their application.

2. Which organisations can apply under the NSDP?

- Any community-based organisation that is a legal or registered entity (e.g. an Association or Incorporated body) that wishes to establish a new Shed or improve an existing Men's Shed.
- Applicants can include any Men's Sheds, Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs and any other community-based organisation that can specifically offer 'shed-type' activities.
- In circumstances where a sponsoring body is applying for programme funding on behalf of a Men's Shed, a **Memorandum of Understanding** must be in place to show that the particular Men's Shed has agreed to the activities proposed within the application form.
- Men's Sheds who wish to apply do not have to be a member of the AMSA
- Comprehensive information is contained in the Round Fourteen National Shed Development Programme Guidelines that are available on www.mensshed.org.

3. What are 'shed-type' activities?

- Where the primary activity is the provision of a safe, friendly and inclusive environment where males are able to gather together and/or work on meaningful projects at their own pace, in their own time and in the company of other males
- To manufacture a variety of products including toys, household or garden furniture, Indigenous crafts or wood turned articles
- Activities that may include gardening, undertaking repairs or restoration such as heritage machinery, bicycle and small engine maintenance and cooking
- Undertaking community projects
- Participation in training programmes such as First Aid and computers
- Participation in activities that advance the health and well-being of their male members and
- Engagement in traditional and cultural activities such as art and crafts, traditional hunting and fishing.

These activities may not necessarily be conducted within a specific facility known as a 'Men's Shed' but in a meeting place designated and known as a Men's Group.

4. Can our community-based organisation apply for NSDP funding to build a new Men's Shed?

No. The building of a new shed and premises is not supported under this Programme.

5. How does a community-based organisation apply for NSDP funding?

- Two funding Rounds are scheduled each financial year (1 July to 30 June) under the NSDP
- Those community-based organisations wishing to apply for funding for a Men's Shed Project under the NSDP should refer to the AMSA's website www.mensshed.org for information on upcoming Rounds. Alternatively, email liz@mensshed.net for latest information.
- Downloadable copies of the NSDP Guidelines and Application Forms for each Round are available on the AMSA website when each specific Round opens.
- Applicants should provide one original and four (4) copies of the completed Application Form and one (1) copy of all supporting documentation.

In exceptional circumstances where an applicant is unable to obtain two quotes, applicants must contact AMSA either by email liz@mensshed.net or phone 0408 466 401 to discuss potential solutions.

6. Can AMSA staff assist organisations to complete the application form?

No. To ensure fairness and equity, AMSA staff cannot assist individual organisations to complete selection criteria in their application forms. However, they may answer technical questions relating to the application process.

7. How many times can a community-based organisation apply for funding?

Community-based organisations can apply for funding in any Funding Round. However, the Evaluation Panel will consider any short-listed applicants based on their application. Factors considered in the Panel assessment include:

- *Category/categories* in which the applicant has been successful in previous rounds of the NSDP
- The *number of rounds* in which the applicant has been successful
- The overall *level of NSDP funding* previously received by the applicant
- The *services/items* requested
- Demonstrated need and demonstrated levels of disadvantage
- The applicant's efforts in sourcing other funding/fundraising

8. Can a community-based organisation apply for the same Men's Shed Project that it applied for in a previous Round?

Yes. Community-based organisations that applied for a particular Men's Shed Project in a previous funding Round and were unsuccessful can re-apply for funding for the same purpose. Applicants that have previously received funding are still eligible to apply.

9. Do community-based organisations need to submit a new application form for each funding Round even if it was unsuccessful in a previous funding round?

Yes. An important feature of the NSDP is its flexibility in responding to changing/emerging Shed needs. The NSDP Guidelines and Application Form may have been modified to better respond to those needs. For this reason different application information and assessment criteria may apply for each round.

10. What Men's Shed Projects will be given priority?

The priorities for Round Fourteen include:

- Those Men's Sheds in areas of greatest need
- Applicants who can demonstrate that their proposal is value for money and meets a specific need
- Men's Shed who engage with and have membership from the 12 priority groups

11. What are the 12 Priority Groups?

- Males not in work
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males
- Socially disadvantaged
- Isolated males
- Males with a disability
- Males with a mental illness (e.g. Depression)
- Migrant males
- Males living in rural and remote areas
- Defence veterans
- Males suffering alcohol abuse
- Males suffering drug abuse
- Males who need support due to relationship issues

12. What is the Evaluation process?

Comprehensive information about the Evaluation Process is contained within the current *Round 14 NSDP Guidelines*. Information has been provided about the application process from lodgement of application through to the announcement of successful applicants.

All eligible applications are evaluated by an independent panel using an agreed scoring based on the Programme Guidelines and Methodology approved by the Department of Health.

13. What happens after the Evaluation Process?

- A summary report of Recommended Successful Applicants will be provided to the Department of Health.
- The Australian Government may announce successful grants by a media release or other forms of communication.

14. How will applicants be informed of the outcomes?

- AMSA will issue a News Bulletin detailing a list of all successful applicants
- The AMSA website will publish the complete list of successful applicants
- All applicants, both successful and unsuccessful, will be notified in writing of the outcome within the following month.

15. Will individual feedback be provided to applicants?

The NSDP attracts a large volume of applications however applicants may contact AMSA on liz@mensshed.net to request a debriefing.

16. If we are successful, what is the process?

- AMSA will issue a News Bulletin detailing the successful applicants and the AMSA website will publish the complete list of successful applicants.
- All successful applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome within the following month.
- Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Offer setting out funding conditions, requirements for payment of grant and future acquittal reporting.
- AMSA will send all documents to the applicant's main contact nominated on the application form and the postal address or email of the applicant organisation provided on the application. Please ensure the main contact person nominated is aware of the process.
- Successful applicants are required to return the Letter of Offer and an invoice to the AMSA who can then initiate payment of grant monies through direct deposit.

17. How do I obtain further information about the NSDP?

Phone 1300 550 009
Email: liz@mensshed.net