



**Jai Rowell MP**  
Minister for Mental Health  
Assistant Minister for Health

**Dr Geoff Lee, MP**  
Member for Parramatta

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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7 July 2014

### **STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTING MATES IN PARRAMATTA**

The Hon. Jai Rowell, MP, NSW Minister for Mental Health visited Parramatta today to learn of the work, and lend his support and congratulations to the Parramatta Men's Shed.

Community Men's Sheds cater for men from all walks of life and offer social, emotional and other benefits to men who participate in them.

"Today there are 200 men's sheds across NSW and the government is committed to these very valuable community-based resources" said Jai.

"Men's Sheds are filling a much needed social connection while maintaining skills developed over a life-time. The Parramatta Men's Shed provides opportunities to create and build, while socialising and contributing to the community.

"That's why today I am pleased to announce a one-off \$500 grant to the Shed which will be used to aid the purchase of specialist tools for use by the members.

"Forums that can engage with men, where they can come together and support each other are vital for the community" he said.

Member for Parramatta, the Hon. Geoff Lee MP, has been a strong supporter of the Men's Shed.

"With a growing membership, the Parramatta Mens Shed moved into these new premises in March with the support of a \$25,000 grant from the NSW Government. I congratulate the members for their hard work in refurbishing the space to establish this new Shed." Dr Lee said.

Parramatta Men's Shed has not been slow in reaching out to the broader community. The members recently completed a community garden bed for Boronia Multicultural Services, another important community based organisation providing migrant and refugee services.

"I am very pleased that the Hon. Jai Rowell, MP, NSW Minister for Mental Health has taken time out of his busy schedule to visit the Parramatta Men's Shed and to lend support to the efforts of these dedicated community members," Dr Lee said.

Minister Rowell thanked the President, Doug McKay for hosting the visit and congratulated the members for their generosity and support of the local community.

"Men's Sheds like the one in Parramatta offer their members mateship and support, all while giving back to their local community – for this they are to be congratulated"