



MEN'S SHEDS OF WA COVID-19 STATEMENT

Dated 6 January 2022

Dear Sheds

We appreciate that many sheds and their members have concerns about what will happen in WA post 5 February 2022. Given that the principal demographic of Men's Sheds members are senior-age men, and that we are a registered health promotion charity, we have a duty to provide up to date information to Sheds on accessing health and wellbeing advice and information. We take this responsibility very seriously and seek guidance from the appropriate health authorities, who employ the experts in their respective fields. In the instance of COVID-19, we are relaying communications from both the Commonwealth (<https://www.health.gov.au/>) and State Government's Departments of Health (<https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/>), and from the WA Departments of Communities and Premier and Cabinet. We are also working with other peak organisations across WA, including WACOSS, to ensure that we are providing accurate, timely and helpful advice that is consistent with the rest of the community services sector.

We are mindful that we are now receiving enquiries from WA Sheds regarding information on if/how they can mandate proof-of-vaccination for entry (of both members and visitors) into their Shed. To date our organisation has not endorsed an approach of mandatory vaccination for sheds. We have instead opted to encourage Shed leaders to disseminate relevant government advice (<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus>) and actively promote the WA government's 'Roll up for WA' (<https://rollup.wa.gov.au/>) campaign. It is important to take the government's lead on what is reasonable and appropriate. This is a rapidly changing environment and as such Men's Sheds of WA will continue to monitor government advice and will respond accordingly, taking the necessary advice prior to implementing any changes to our approach.

Men's Sheds of WA works directly with sheds and with many vulnerable people. Although our employees are not mandated under current Public Health Orders, a large proportion of our work is performed in collaboration with our members and sector partners who deliver direct services to vulnerable people and are mandated under such orders. We have therefore opted to adopt a COVID-19 vaccination policy, whereby Men's Sheds of WA employees, staff, volunteers and board members are required to maintain fully vaccinated status against COVID-19. We believe we have taken this decision in the best interests, wellbeing and health of our staff, members and all who come in contact with them. This policy does not extend to WA sheds given that they are separate legal entities and as such must make their own decisions for their members.

Our team is liaising with the government agencies and bodies mentioned above to provide resources, training and information designed to protect Sheds and their members when WA's borders open. Some guidance has already been distributed to sheds, with more to follow in the coming weeks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Wild'.

James Wild
Chief Executive Officer
Email: ceo@menssheds.org.au

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Taylor'.

Trevor Taylor
President
Email: president@menssheds.org.au

