

Question on Notice
No. 70
Asked on 15 February 2017

MR PYNE asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON C R DICK) –

Will the Minister advise what support the Palaszczuk Government is providing for Men's Sheds, such as the Cairns Men's Shed, in light of the important role they play in men's health issues?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for Cairns for his question.

The Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (CHHHS) recognises the important role of the Men's Shed, an initiative funded by the Federal Department of Health to provide practical support in the delivery of a wide range of services. The aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of members and reduce the number of men who are at risk from preventable health issues that may emanate from isolation.

I am advised that there are a number of initiatives that CHHHS has undertaken in collaboration with the Men's Shed:

- *Spanner in the Works* is a men's health 'tool box' that provides the opportunity for men to discuss a range of health issues, as well as undergoing some simple health screening tests or risk assessments for Type 2 diabetes, prostate symptoms, blood pressure, mental health issues and a range of other health related concerns. The program has been delivered at FNQ Rotary Field Days;
- In June 2016, as part of Men's Health week, CHHHS partnered with Men's Shed to raise awareness about men's health. More than 40 people gathered at the Mareeba Turf Club to discuss the significant health disparities of Australian men as compared to Australian women, and in particular that of the Mareeba community;
- In August 2016, the CHHHS worked with the Men's Shed to design activity boards for use in the wards for patients with dementia and delirium. The Men's Shed produces these aids for use across the health service as well as non-government organisations that support people suffering from dementia and delirium; and
- The CHHHS, together with the Men's Shed launched the Men's Health Awareness Campaign, *Movember*, at the Mareeba library. Information sessions on depression and general men's health topics were also held at the Men's Shed. At the same time, the CHHHS also held a number of community events across the health service to promote awareness around testicular cancer, prostate cancer and mental health as well as having static displays of information in the hospital and community health foyers.