



Men's Sheds will take the place of Lions Clubs?

[Date 22 September 2011]

Prime Minister Julia Gillard's partner, Tim Mathieson, is quoted on the Sydney Morning Herald website and WA Today as commenting:

"It used to be rotaries, it used to be Lions clubs, sheds is the way to go now and it is certainly growing at a rapid rate."

Lions applaud the work being done in Men's sheds to mentor young people around Australia – some of our 1400 clubs have "Men's sheds" as part of their broad community portfolio. It is a bit of a stretch, however, to suggest that the sheds will replace service clubs within Australia.

Lions works with 2500 young people each year through our Youth of the Year program, we have over 1000 youth members in our Leo Program and are building the ranks of young people within our clubs.

For all the great work that 'Men's sheds' do, they will not replace our clubs' efforts in disaster recovery during Black Saturday, the Toodyay Bushfires, Cyclone Yasi or the Queensland floods to name a few.

Men's sheds won't be investing in critical medical research programs to solve children's cancer, create Gardasil and the Bionic Ear, or to resolve Spinal Cord injury.

And Men's Sheds won't carry out the thousands of weekly community service projects that help the most disadvantaged in our community.

Lions Clubs have been working in Australia since 1947, and will soon celebrate our 100th anniversary of international community work.

We wish the very best to the many community volunteers working in Men's Sheds, community sporting groups, school tuckshops, beaches, our fellow service clubs and throughout our lucky nation!

Rob Oerlemans
Executive Officer