



Hon Curtis Pitt MP
Member for Mulgrave



**Minister for Disability Services,
Mental Health and Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Partnerships**

Your Reference: Petitions No. 1780–11 and No. 1825–11
Our Reference: MH/11/00244
COM 16353-2011

22 DEC 2011

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

DEAR NEIL

I refer to Petitions No.1780–11 and No. 1825–11 received by the Legislative Assembly on 29 November 2011 asking the Government to purchase land at Mill Road, Buderim for a permanent Men's Shed facility.

The Queensland Government recognises that Men's Sheds are important community-based initiatives providing inclusive environments for men to socialise and work together on meaningful activities and projects, at their own pace, in their own time, and in the company of other men.

The Government also appreciates that Men's Sheds support men's health and wellbeing by reducing social isolation and providing a place where men can enhance their skills, confidence and self-esteem.

The petitioners may be aware that on 11 October 2011, I launched the 'Supporting Recovery: Mental Health Community Services Plan 2011–2017', which will focus on a more comprehensive, recovery-orientated mental health system in Queensland, Australia's first dedicated plan for the non-clinical mental health community sector.

While I commend the Buderim Men's Shed Community Group members on their achievements in the past 12 months and acknowledge the important service they provide to the community, as the responsible Minister for Mental Health initiatives, I can confirm that any new funding available in the first two years of the Supporting Recovery Plan will need to be allocated to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of Queensland's individuals, families and communities affected by the devastating natural disasters of 2010–11.

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Because of the priority on supporting community recovery, the Department of Communities is not in a position to support the Buderim Men's Shed request at this time. Should further funds become available, consideration will be given to this proposal.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the petitioners for their support and advocacy for initiatives that can help improve the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders in need and for bringing their aspirations to the Government's attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Pitt'.

Curtis Pitt MP

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