

Media Release

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New job skills opportunities and housing open to Shepp locals

A unique, new job skills program in Shepparton is giving local people with disability a vital outlet to learn practical skills, build independence and meet new friends.

Jamie Graham, aged 37, joined the original Cre8 Shed in Wangaratta, run by for-purpose aged and disability organisation VMCH, two years ago.

The outcomes for participants, including Jamie, have been so positive that VMCH embarked on a fundraising campaign to open a second shed in Shepparton.

Now, the new shed is open, and VMCH is putting the call out to locals to come and check it out during a free open day on Friday 23 February, along with its new supported independent living home, Kialla House.

Jamie says joining Cre8 – and undertaking woodwork, drawing plans and researching project ideas – has been lifechanging.

“I started the program with minimal knowledge and low confidence, but now I’m helping others to learn how to use tools,” Jamie says.

He was recently thrilled to gain paid employment at the shed, including creating items for VMCH’s online social enterprise shop, which raises money for job skills programs.

“I’m proud of my achievements so far and would like to mentor others in this type of employment, as well as come up with my own e-commerce projects in the future,” Jamie says.

Team Leader John Salafia described Jamie as a “valued member of the Cre8 team with a heart of gold”.

“It’s been fantastic to witness Jamie’s positive growth in confidence and self-worth. He has become a bit of a role model to his peers.”

John says Cre8 differs from other disability programs because it offers a workplace environment.

“Everyone who joins has access to experienced support and a family-like culture. We offer genuine pathways to employment and an opportunity to explore people’s creative sides.”

John encouraged locals to come along to the upcoming open day and see for themselves.

“Individuals, families and friends can come along and work up an appetite trying their hand at some creative projects, then enjoy a delicious sausage sizzle. We also have after-school and holiday programs beginning soon for school aged kids, so anyone interested in those are also welcome to join us.”

The ‘Hello to Shepparton’ open day kicks off at VMCH’s newly opened Supported Independent Living home, Kialla House, at 10am. The home is ready to welcome new housemates who would like to experience living out of home for the first time in a safe and beautiful environment. Transportation between Kialla House and the Cre8 Shed will be available. For details, call Drew Burnett on 0429 542 257.

Media enquiries

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About VMCH

Here at VMCH, our services are as diverse as the people we support.

Our values underpin the work we do. As a Catholic, for-purpose organisation, love, joy, hospitality and courage aren't just words to us, they guide us in everything we do.

While we've been around for over a century, we're always moving forward. Always staying true to who we are by supporting people and families to live their best lives; providing a place to call home and spaces to learn and grow.

Our professional and compassionate teams are with you on your life journey; helping you with a wide range of support from early learning and therapy, specialist education, disability services, affordable homes, residential aged care, retirement living and at-home aged care.

