



Jai Rowell MP

Minister for Mental Health
Assistant Minister for Health

Craig Baumann MP

Member for Port Stephens

MEDIA RELEASE

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PORT STEPHENS COMMUNITY PRAISED FOR COMPASSIONATE APPROACH TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE

The Port Stephens community showcased their compassion today when Mental Health Minister Jai Rowell and local MP Craig Baumann visited a number of local community mental health groups.

Raymond Terrace Men's Shed President, Kevin Kingberg, took the MP's on a tour of their facility and discussed the importance of the Men's Shed to the community.

"It is clear that this group of blokes not only support each other but also their community" said Minister Rowell.

"Craig has often spoken of the good work done by the Men's Sheds in Port Stephens and I am pleased to have been able to visit the Raymond Terrace facility today" he said.

"Despite mental health issues becoming less stigmatised, forums that can engage with men, where they can come together and support each other are vital for the community" said Craig.

"There are over 200 men's sheds across NSW and while I'm confident Port Stephens hosts some of the finest, I believe we can all agree they are an asset to any community anywhere in NSW" he said.

The Port Stephens Suicide Prevention Network was also visited, with discussions held with President Bernie Fitzsimons about the wonderful work currently being done by the group.

"This network brings together community members, social workers and mental health professionals to reduce the incidence and impact of suicide in the community"

"I'm incredibly impressed by the work done by the network – they are to be commended"

Local Member Craig Baumann also praised the facility for their selfless pursuit in helping members in the community receive the help and support they need.

"I'm a strong supporter of the network and the work they do on a regular basis. President Bernie Fitzsimons and the team are a true asset to the local region and I publically thank them today" said Craig.