



## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Apprentice Mentoring for the Automotive Industry

In 2017 the Australian Government announced the Industry Specialist Mentoring for Australian Apprentices (ISMAA) program. The program is managed by the Department of Education and Training and aims to increase apprentice retention, particularly in the first two years of training, improve completion rates, and support the supply of skilled workers in specific industries.

The program will deliver regular face-to-face support and guidance to apprentices and trainees from highly skilled industry mentors.

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) was selected as an ISMAA provider for the automotive industry in 2018 following an extensive procurement process. The Association is half way through the delivery of the program and has seen some amazing results.

Dr Brett Dale, Group CEO for MTA Queensland said, "We are really excited to continue delivering this important mentoring program to automotive apprentices in 2019. We are proud of the success of the program in 2018 and know that the committed work of our mentors will have a major positive effect on the future workforce of the automotive industry. We have had some excellent feedback from employers and apprentices about the program, providing substantial evidence of the positive outcomes for the student, employer and industry."

Kate Stallman, an apprentice on the program said, "I found the transition from part-time desk work to 50+ hours per week of physically active work, extremely difficult and overwhelming, both physically and mentally/emotionally. Just knowing there was someone I could call, who was knowledgeable about the industry, who would listen and be able to offer relevant and experienced advice was invaluable. I really don't know whether I would still be an apprentice without the support of Andrew and ISMAA."

#### Motor Trades Association of Queensland

Address: Freeway Office Park, Building 8, 2728 Logan Road Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113 (Postal: PO Box 4530, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113)  
Telephone +61 7 3237 8777 | Toll Free 1800 177 951 | Email [info@mtaq.com.au](mailto:info@mtaq.com.au) | Website | [www.mtaq.com.au](http://www.mtaq.com.au)

Mentoring is available for free to any Queensland automotive apprentice or trainee who is in the first two years of their training. The apprentices will be supported by experienced mentors who will:

- provide support in the development of technical skills;
- support off-the-job learning needs;
- provide career and pathway advice related to the automotive industry;
- provide motivation and build confidence to help achieve potential and develop resilience;
- be a positive role model and encourage independence and self-reliance; and
- provide support and advice to apprentices during periods of personal difficulty, and if struggling with mental health, provide a process to assist with seeking help.

MTA Queensland have a dedicated [webpage](#) for the ISMAA program which contains resources that are useful to employers and apprentices.

Please contact 3237 8777 or [info@mtaq.com.au](mailto:info@mtaq.com.au) to enquire or sign-up.

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

**For more information:**

Lysa Dugandzic | Marketing & Communications Manager | 0428 510 163 | [lysad@mtaq.com.au](mailto:lysad@mtaq.com.au)

**Background:**

**MTA Queensland** is the peak organisation in the State representing the specific interests of businesses in the retail, repair and service sector of Queensland's automotive industry. There are some 15,500 automotive value chain businesses employing in excess of 90,000 persons and generating in excess of \$20 billion annually. The Association represents and promotes issues of relevance to the automotive industries to all levels of Government and within Queensland's economic structure.

**MTAiQ** – Australia's first automotive innovation hub established by MTAQ, is a facility offering an eco-system that supports innovation in the motor trades.

**Industry Specialist Mentoring for Australian Apprentices (ISMAA) is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.**

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