



## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Automotive Leaders Honoured as MTA Queensland Announces 2023 Industry Award Winners

Business owners, entrepreneurs, and apprentices from across Queensland have been recognised for their excellence and commitment to the Queensland automotive industry at the 2023 Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) Industry Awards Gala on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Highlighting the incredible achievements of MTA Queensland member businesses and MTA Institute (RTO. 31529) apprentices over the last 12 months, the 2023 Industry Awards saw six award categories presented, including the Apprentice of the Year, Community Award, Innovation Award, Women in Industry Award, and new on the award program, the Small and Large Business Awards for Excellence.

The inaugural Small Business Award for Excellence was awarded to **The Garage Miami**, a Gold Coast-based business that offers servicing, brakes and suspension services, tyres, and wheels. Through a range of support programs and initiatives centred around the well-being and professional growth of employees, and the introduction of an in-house marketing and digital team to lead state-of-the-art media campaigns, the Garage Miami have delivered significant year-on-year growth since its establishment in 2017.

The Large Business Award for Excellence was awarded to **AMA Group Ltd**, a leader in the Australian collision repair industry, supported by a leading Australian distributor of vehicle collision parts. With a focus on developing the automotive workforce through building leadership capability, AMA Group have delivered considerable growth in their Queensland apprenticeship program over the last 12 months.

### Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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In the evening's other awards, Townsville-based **Alexander Body Works** took out the Community Award, the Sunshine Coast's **British Off Road** won the Innovation Award, **Hatice Hutchinson**, owner of All Car Engine Reconditioning Services in Yatala was presented with the Woman in Industry Award, and **Melissa Smith**, a fourth-year AUR30320 - Certificate III in Automotive Electrical Technology apprentice from Crank Auto Electrics and Air Conditioning in Deception Bay was crowned Apprentice of the Year.

MTA Group CEO Rod Camm said, "The Industry Awards are an opportunity to highlight the individuals and businesses in our communities who deliver success every day and lead the way in driving progress in the automotive industry. We are privileged to be able to celebrate them in person at such a spectacular event.

"As an industry, we continue to face skill and labour shortages, rising costs of goods, and rapid evolution of the automotive landscape at the hands of electrification. However, we continue to face these challenges head-on and it is the actions of those honoured at the 2023 Industry Awards Gala that are leading the way. I sincerely congratulate all award finalists and winners and look forward to following the stories of them all as they continue to forge their paths forward in the automotive industry.

MTA Queensland would like to thank platinum supporters Spirit Super and Capricorn for their support of the 2023 Industry Awards Gala.

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

**For more information:**

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**Attached Images:**

1. Small Business Award for Excellence winners Nathan Brookes and Andrew Whiteway Directors of The Garage Miami, pictured with MTA Queensland Deputy CEO Kellie Dewar (second from left) and finalists Sharine Milne from R.H.D Classics (left) and Craig Bails from Highfields Mechanical (far right).
2. Large Business Award for Excellence winners Adina Nijemcevic and Jim Lynch from AMA Group, pictured with MTA Queensland Deputy CEO Kellie Dewar.
3. Innovation Award winner Ross Calder from British Off Road pictured with Peter Peachey from Platinum Supporter Capricorn
4. Community Award winner Frederik Minnie, owner of Alexander Body Works (left) and Martin Dickinson from AMA (centre, pictured with MTA Queensland Chair Paul Peterson
5. Women in Industry Award Winner Hatice Hutchinson (centre), pictured with MTA Queensland Deputy CEO Kellie Dewar (left) and MTA Institute Chair Terri Butler (right)
6. 2023 MTA Queensland Apprentice of the Year Winner Melissa Smith, pictured with MTA Institute Chair Terri Butler (left), MTA Institute Director Marcello Riotto (middle left), and Gates Corporation Business Development Manager James Forno (right)

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**Background:**

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (**MTA Queensland**) is the peak body representing the interests of employers in the retail, repair, and service sectors of Queensland's automotive industry. MTA Queensland has been performing its vital representative role for the automotive industry since 1929. In Queensland there are some 16,000 automotive businesses employing more than 90,000 people, that generate more than \$7.24 billion to the state economy annually. The automotive industry is estimated to contribute \$37 billion to the Australian economy each year. The Association represents and promotes issues of relevance to all levels of government. In 2019 MTA Queensland was announced as an ABA100 winner in The Australian Business Awards and a finalist in the Lord Mayor's Business Awards, for Business Innovation.

The **MTA Institute (RTO 31529)** is the leading automotive training provider in Queensland offering nationally recognised training, covering technical, retail and the aftermarket sectors of the automotive industry. The MTA Institute is the largest independent automotive training provider in Queensland, employing experienced trainers who are geographically dispersed from Cairns to the Gold Coast and Toowoomba to Emerald. In the last year, the MTA Institute delivered accredited courses to more than 2,000 students. The MTA Institute is the first trade RTO in Australia to be approved under the ITECA Industry Certification Program and was the winner of the Small Training Provider of the Year at the 2019 Queensland Training Awards.

**MTAiQ**, Australia's first automotive innovation hub established by MTA Queensland in 2017, is an eco-system that supports innovation and research for the motor trades.

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