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The benchmark of training standards.

## MEDIA STATEMENT

Wednesday 24 October 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Funding for Innovation in Automotive Businesses

The Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, Karen Andrews, announced a new initiative today worth \$7 million dollars to support Australia's automotive sector by assisting local businesses expand into new markets.

Minister Andrews said, "The Coalition Government is committed to supporting an internationally competitive and globally integrated automotive sector in Australia."

The Automotive Innovation Lab Access Grants program will support businesses across Australia to undertake automotive product development. Businesses can receive up to \$200,000 in matched funding for eligible project costs. Eligible project costs can include design, prototype and testing activities at established commercial and research facilities and automotive innovation labs.

Dr Brett Dale, Group CEO for the Motor Trades Association of Queensland said, "This is a great opportunity for automotive businesses in Queensland to utilise the services of our innovation hub – MTAiQ – Australia's first purpose-built facility for the industry which has been operating for over a year. We have a vast array of clients in the hub, from start-up companies and individual entrepreneurs, to offshore micro-manufacturing businesses looking to scale up."

This is a tremendous initiative and we welcome the financial assistance for Queensland automotive businesses to move into new areas of growth. We have also recently announced

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our support for the Automotive Engineering Graduate Program, which will encourage qualified engineers into the Australian automotive industry.”

Applications are now open and close on 13 December 2018. For more information about the Automotive Innovation Lab Access Grants program and how to apply visit

<https://www.business.gov.au/ailag>

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

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**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.

The Association is the leading automotive training provider in Queensland offering nationally recognised training, covering technical, retail and the aftermarket sectors of the automotive industry through the **MTA Institute** - a registered training organisation. It is the largest private automotive apprentice trainer in Queensland employing many trainers who are geographically dispersed from Cairns to the Gold Coast and Toowoomba and Emerald. The MTA Institute last financial year accredited courses to more than 2000 apprentices and trainees.

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

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