



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sienna Whiting and Joshua Norris Awarded the MTA Queensland 2023 VET Trainer Scholarships

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) is pleased to announce the first round of the 2023 Vocational Education and Training (VET) Trainer Scholarships have been awarded to Sienna Whiting and Joshua Norris.

The scholarships are a fantastic opportunity for automotive professionals to advance their careers by undertaking a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (TAE40122); a highly sought-after course that provides the skills and knowledge to deliver training in the VET sector. Valued at over \$2,500, the scholarships are awarded to one female and one male candidate each round.

Sienna Whiting is a qualified automotive refinisher with over 10 years' experience in the industry. She spent the last three years with Jonkers Smash Repairs, taking the role of paint shop foreman in early 2022 where she managed a team of three, including one apprentice. Sienna believes that becoming an automotive trainer is the next step in her career and is extremely excited to begin this new chapter of her life. While she already provides on-the-job work experience to apprentices, Sienna hopes to use this scholarship to build upon her skills and deliver a higher quality of training.

"My biggest mentor has been my own automotive trainer, who has encouraged me and supported me from apprentice to qualified tradeswomen," said Sienna. "I hope to one day provide a supportive learning environment, instilling the same respectful values and barrier-free career pathway that I experienced."

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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Joshua Norris is a qualified technician who has worked in the industry for over 9 years. After completing his apprenticeship with Renault, he attended the Renault Academy in Melbourne where he became Head Technician for six years. Joshua worked for various companies, including Ford and BMW, before joining West Star Mercedes, where he has remained for the last two years. A hard-working individual, Joshua is committed to becoming a great automotive trainer, always striving to do his best. In his own words "If I say I'm going to do it, I do it."

"I absolutely love the industry and would like to pass my knowledge on to the next generation," said Joshua. "We all wanted to become a mechanic at some stage, and I would like to help people obtain that goal."

The VET Trainer Scholarship is available twice per year and is open to trade-qualified automotive employees in Queensland with at least five years' experience. The next scholarship round will open on 1 August 2023.

MTA Queensland is committed to addressing the skills shortage that exists across Queensland and supports the career advancement of automotive tradespeople.

For more information on the MTA Queensland VET Trainer Scholarship, [click here](#).

ENDS

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Images:

Sienna Whiting

Joshua Norris

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,

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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 ecosystem that supports innovation and research for the motor trades.

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