



MEDIA RELEASE

12 October 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrating Women in the Auto Industry at Inaugural Dinner

This month saw the celebration of females in the automotive industry with business owners, executives, administrative teams, experienced tradeswomen, and apprentices coming together at the inaugural Auto Women Dinner on Friday, 7 October 2022.

MTA Queensland hosted the event, welcoming over 100 attendees from across the State to enjoy a night of entertainment and dining.

Rod Camm, Group CEO of MTA Queensland said “We are very excited to be promoting the importance of gender diversity across all workplaces. However, we must be mindful of where we are coming from as currently around 20 per cent of the automotive workforce is female, and only 4 per cent of technicians are women.

“Tonight is a therefore a celebration of both the achievements and importance of women in our industry, but it’s also an absolute commitment that we want to do better; that we must do better.”

The Auto Women dinner showcased the accomplishments of high achievers such as Andrea McCarthy, owner and operator of McCarthy Panel Works in Mackay, a Director on the Board of MTA Queensland, a member of I-CAR Australia’s Industry Advisory Board, and Chair of MTA Queensland’s National Auto Collision Alliance.

Earlier this year, Andrea was awarded one of the Auto Women professional development scholarships, enabling her to undertake the highly sought-after Executive Ready course.

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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“By highlighting what can be achieved within workplaces, we can demonstrate to young women and career changers how exciting our industry is and how we support new entrants through career enhancement support, mentoring and scholarships,” said Mr Camm.

MTA Queensland already has programs underway, including the National Careers Institute’s Driving Auto Women’s Career project and the ‘It’s Hard to Be What You Cannot See’ collaboration with RACQ to showcase what careers can look like for women in the automotive industry.

The Hon. Shannon Fentiman, Queensland’s Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence was a special guest of the night.

“Women in workplaces across the country right now are stepping up and stepping into their rightful place as equal and respected partners in the success of their industries, and your industry is no exception. Women have long held leadership positions in this sector and have made significant contributions to mechanic, sales, and administrative roles. But now, we have a network which supports even more women, to not just enter the industry, but to thrive.

“Every woman and girl in Queensland must be given equal access to all the exciting opportunities that this State has to offer, and the Auto Women initiative is another practical way of helping drive change in our Industry.

“A recent report just showed us how important women’s economic participation is. Cutting workplace gender inequality in half could generate an extra 111 billion dollars in revenue. So, if initiatives like yours keeps driving women into this fabulous industry, and we reduce gender inequality in our workplaces, the country is only going to go from strength to strength,” said Ms Fentiman.

MTA Queensland welcomes the significant support of the event’s sponsors Spirit Super, Capricorn and BUSY Sisters.

The 2022 Auto Women Dinner was a tremendous evening, and the Association thanks its guests, friends, and sponsors for making it so memorable.

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For more information:

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Images:

Image 1: Group photo

Image 2: The Hon. Shannon Fentiman

Image 3: Rod Camm

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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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