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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Three Young Apprentices Volunteer to Build the First MTA Queensland Race Car

Queensland's automotive peak industry body, the Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) begins a new chapter in the long history of the Association as it takes part, for the first time, in the fast and furious world of motorsport. Led by director and driver David Woods, MTA Queensland will line up for the 2017 Hyundai X3 Series Cup.

This fantastic venture for MTA Queensland, offers a new learning experience and networking pathways to the MTA Institute apprentices and at the beginning of 2017, an expression of interest was put out for young men and women to volunteer to join the MTA Queensland Racing Team Support Crew.

This volunteering role would allow for apprentices to learn about the grassroots level of motorsport and what is involved in building a race car. To reach racing standards, the humble Hyundai Excel required a complete rebuild from the ground up. Guided by the wealth of knowledge and experience that the MTA Institute trainers possess, the MTA Queensland Racing Team Support Crew has stepped up to the challenge with enthusiasm. The dedicated crew made up of Elliott Lemmon, 20 from Ormiston, Gerard Field, 21 from the Gold Coast and William Salmon, 24 from St George, have volunteered their time and skills to make the race car a reality. Spurred on by a love of motorsport and a desire to be up close and personal in the pits on race day, the crew meet every few weeks to continue building and perfecting the race car.

Marcello Riotto, Operations Manager for the MTA Institute said, "The dedication and enthusiasm that the young men have shown has been vital to the success of this project. They have shown a huge amount of reliability, and their skills and their passion in the development of the car has been second to none."

With 20 – 25 competitors expected and the Series steadily growing in popularity, in addition to their involvement in the rebuild, Elliott, Gerard and William will volunteer their time to assist on race days, allowing them to get a real feel for the motorsport atmosphere.

"The boys have done an exceptional job and deserve to be recognised for their contribution and time volunteered," said Marcello. "With their love of motorsport evident, volunteering for the Support Crew has been the perfect stepping stone for them into the racing world."

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

#### **For more information:**

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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 located in the State. There are some 13,000 automotive value chain businesses employing in excess of 90,000 persons generating in excess of \$14.5 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.

