



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Students learning the trade with Auto Camp

The automotive industry is currently experiencing a technological revolution caused by the introduction of hybrid and electric vehicles and as a result, faces widespread skills shortages.

In response, the Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) has developed Auto Camp; a three-day school holiday program which allows high school students the opportunity to experience what a career in the automotive industry can offer.

Paul Kulpa, General Manager of Training said, "The course aims to give young people the chance to experience a potential career path, whilst doing something hands-on, educational and enjoyable."

The Auto Camp program covers an array of automotive skills ranging from the basic principles of a vehicles to new technology such as hybrid and electric vehicles and is a great experience for those that have an interest in electronics, engineering, design or manufacturing.

"The knowledge and skills gained from Auto Camp is something the students can use no matter what career they decide to pursue," said Mr Kulpa. "Cohorts are always very engaged with many participants showing genuine interest in pursuing a career in the automotive industry."

Kai Warren, a 15-year old high school student from Shailer Park attended Auto Camp with an open mind after not knowing what career he wanted to pursue.

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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"I do have an interest in cars, but whether that turns into a career or is just something I do in my spare time, who knows. It's good to explore my options."

15-year old Sean Germain from Carters Ridge shared a similar sentiment in regard to his future, but said he really took a lot away from the course.

"I came to Auto Camp to learn about car maintenance and what goes on underneath a bonnet, so I have more knowledge for when I need it if my car ever breaks down," said Sean.

"It's been really great to learn more about cars and get to learn by doing things."

"I haven't really thought about a career with cars, but the panel and paint session we did in the workshops was really cool."

Kai was similarly impressed saying, "Some of the workshop stuff we did was really interesting. You don't get to experience things like that normally so to have that chance was really cool."

In total 13 students took part in the latest Auto Camp school holiday program with many showing strong interest in a possible future pathway.

"We've seen previous Auto Camp students going on to complete a Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation and then successfully secure an apprenticeship, so we are really beginning to see a career pathway develop and it all starts with Auto Camp," said Mr Kulpa.

"This Advancing Apprentices Fund initiative is proudly funded by the Queensland Government".

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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 / mobility industry. There are some 15,500 automotive value chain businesses employing in excess of 90,000 people, that generate more than \$20 billion annually. The Association represents and promotes issues of relevance to the automotive / mobility industry 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 (RTO 31529)** - a registered training organisation. It is the largest private automotive apprentice trainer 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

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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 ACPET Industry Certification Program.

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

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