



## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Vocational Overhaul Should Encourage Future Automotive Workforce

The Productivity Commission's final report into Australia's vocational education and training (VET) sector released on Thursday, called for serious overhaul around its confusing and underperforming aspects.

The Commission found that the multi-billion-dollar sector's funding agreement between the Commonwealth and the states needed major change with lack of transparency, targets not met and poor accountability for monetary allocations.

Rod Camm, Group CEO for the Motor Trades Association of Queensland said, "This report creates an important evidence base for the reform road ahead. There remains enormous skill shortages across the automotive industry, so it is critical that apprentices and those seeking upskilling are able to access training solutions suitable for their work.

"Many of the current structures of the VET sector have had their day. Australia needs a system that keeps pace with the rapidly changing skill demands of industry. To remain internationally competitive, the fundamental building blocks of reform need to include genuine industry engagement, targeting of funding to industry and job needs, a qualification system that keeps pace through recognising stackable micro-credentials and nationally consistent pricing and contractual terms. Incentivising and supporting employers to take on apprentices will also create real jobs post government support programs."

MTA Institute General Manager, Paul Kulpa said, "As an independent industry based automotive training provider, we are encouraged by the recommendations to better link

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funding to high demand job areas that have high growth potential, like the need for specialist technicians to service and repair hydrogen and electric powered vehicles.

"While encouraged by the logic of market approaches to the allocation of funding, the current system is too complex at all levels to truly enable informed choice. A balanced approach needs to include informed student choice, quality and oversight of performance."

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

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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. 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 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 independent 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 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 announced 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 for mobility and the motor trades.

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