



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Government's New Migration Policy Creates a Framework for Positive Change

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) welcomes the Federal Government's new Migration Strategy, saying it is a positive step towards addressing the skills shortages that currently exist within Australia. The strategy provides the foundation for a simplified migration system, with efforts to reduce processing backlogs and enhance pathways to permanent residency.

"The automotive industry continues to suffer from chronic skills shortages, and for some time, MTA Queensland has highlighted the time delays and loopholes that automotive businesses must jump through to get skilled tradespeople into the country," said MTA Queensland CEO Rod Camm. "Migration is not the sole solution to our workforce crisis; however, it is encouraging to see these areas being addressed, and we are eager to see how the strategy will be implemented from next year."

Through the strategy, the Government will introduce a new four-year temporary skilled worker visa – The Skills in Demand visa. Broken into three tiers, the Core Skills Pathway is purpose designed to bring in the skilled employees that Australia needs now and will be directly linked to occupations identified by Jobs and Skills Queensland as being in shortage. The Government has also committed to clear, fast service standards for visa processing, with a median service standard of 21 days.

"Tradespeople remain an important part of our economy and we are eager to see the process be further streamlined to assist our automotive employers in their hiring needs. MTA Queensland is committed to ensuring our industry is represented at all levels, and while shortages exist, remains on the Government's radar."

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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MTA Queensland believes this new visa stream will bring greater stability to workers, their families, and employers. However, extending the capacity for sponsored workers to more easily switch employers need strong safeguards to prevent employers from poaching sponsored migrants from businesses who have already made significant investments in both time and money to support the worker in their relocation to Australia.

“With employers already in a race to recruit and retain top talent in our industry, the last thing we need is disputes over the fees and costs associated with attracting a sponsored worker who is then pursued by another company,” said Camm.

MTA Queensland is particularly encouraged by the Government’s commitment to exploring options to reduce upfront fees for employers and welcomes further consultation to ensure that the chosen model for trailing fees is a fair one that works for businesses of all sizes.

The Government will also immediately move to streamline labour market testing by removing the requirement to advertise positions through Workforce Australia and will subsequently increase the validity period from four to six months.

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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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