

12 December 2024  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Automotive Industry Celebrates Win with Inclusion of Key Trades in New Migration Skills List

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland), in partnership with the Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA), has applauded the Australian Government's decision to include key automotive trades in the revised Core Skills Occupation List (CSOL). This marks a significant step in addressing the ongoing workforce shortages within the automotive sector.

Effective from 7 December 2024, the updated CSOL recognises nine essential automotive trades as eligible occupations under the new Skills in Demand visa and the Direct Entry stream of the Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186) visa. These include:

- Diesel Motor Mechanic (321212)
- Automotive Electrician (321111)
- Panelbeater (324111)
- Vehicle Painter (324311)
- Motor Mechanic (General) (321211)
- Vehicle Body Builder (324211)
- Vehicle Trimmer (324212)
- Motorcycle Mechanic (321213)
- Small Engine Mechanic (321214)

"This is a major win for the automotive industry," said MTA Queensland CEO Rod Camm. "The inclusion of these essential occupations highlights the acute skills shortages facing our sector and offers a critical pathway to addressing the ongoing workforce challenges."

This successful outcome follows extensive advocacy by MTAA and MTA Queensland, underpinned by a thorough economic analysis conducted by Deloitte Access Economics. The landmark report, which drew directly from the experiences and insights of MTA members, played a pivotal role in illustrating the urgency of addressing skills gaps in the automotive sector.

"The government's decision reflects their understanding of the challenges raised by our members," said Mr. Camm. "This is a clear example of what can be achieved when industry voices are heard and supported by robust economic evidence. It's a win for the entire sector and an important step in securing the workforce of the future."

The inclusion of these trades in the CSOL is a response to significant workforce shortages that have been impacting the automotive industry, particularly in key areas across Queensland and nationally.



# MEDIA RELEASE



"The comprehensive submission, which included detailed wage data and industry-specific insights, clearly demonstrated the pressing need for skilled automotive professionals in Australia," Mr. Camm added.

The CSOL forms a key component of the government's reformed temporary skilled migration programme and will operate alongside the new Skills in Demand visa, which replaces the previous Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa.

MTA Queensland will continue to work closely alongside MTAA and other industry and regulatory bodies to ensure the successful implementation of these reforms. Our collaboration will be crucial in monitoring the effectiveness of these changes and ensuring that the sector's workforce needs are met. By working together, we will continue to advocate for the best possible outcomes for the automotive industry, both in Queensland and nationally.

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

**For more information:**

Jade O'Shea | Senior Marketing & Communications Coordinator | 3237 8721 | [jadeo@mtaq.com.au](mailto:jadeo@mtaq.com.au)

**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.

## MOTOR TRADES ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

Freeway Office Park, Building 8, 2728 Logan Road Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113  
(Postal: PO Box 4530, Eight Mile Plains QLD 4113)



+61 7 3237 8777



Toll Free 1800 177 951



[info@mtaq.com.au](mailto:info@mtaq.com.au)



[www.mtaq.com.au](http://www.mtaq.com.au)

