

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Automotive Industry Urges Fair and Balanced Apprenticeship Support

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland) has raised significant concerns about the Federal Government's newly announced \$10,000 residential construction apprenticeship bonus scheme, warning that it risks creating an uneven playing field among Australia's critical trade industries.

"While we fully support initiatives to bolster apprenticeships, which are vital to building Australia's future workforce, we need a comprehensive approach that strengthens the entire skills base," said Rod Camm, CEO of MTA Queensland.

"Just as essential as installing a new sink or building a house, getting your car repaired is a vital service. By offering financial incentives solely to the construction sector, the government risks unintentionally diverting apprentices away from the automotive industry, making their decision based on financial gain rather than genuine interest or the needs of the industry," Mr. Camm explained.

MTA Queensland is calling for an evidence-based approach that targets industries with the greatest need for skilled workers, rather than offering selective incentives.

"Recent data shows concerning trends in automotive apprenticeship enrolments, with some states reporting – Light Vehicle mechanics down 22%, Heavy Commercial Vehicle 34%, and Automotive Electrical Technology down 35% compared to this time last year. All these trades are in short supply."

The automotive sector is at a pivotal moment, undergoing rapid technological evolution with the increasing adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles. This transformation demands a growing workforce of skilled technicians to meet future challenges.

"At a time when the automotive industry is striving to attract more apprentices to address these emerging needs, policies like this actively undermine that goal," said Mr. Camm.

"We need an approach that recognises the essential contributions of all trade industries to Australia's economic infrastructure. Every trade plays a crucial role, and their development must be supported equally."

MTA Queensland is urging the Federal Government to reconsider its current policy and implement apprenticeship incentives that are inclusive and balanced across all essential trades, ensuring Australia can sustainably build the skilled workforce it needs for the future.



# MEDIA RELEASE



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**For more information:**

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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 ecosystem that supports innovation and research for the motor trades.

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