



A message from the CEO

COVID-19 Update 4/09

South Australia has officially become COVID-free for the first time in six weeks. While this a great milestone, it is important that we don't become complacent. Authorities are still advising that it is likely that border closures will remain over the coming months to fight an influx of cases.

SA Health is asking all travellers returning from Brisbane and greater surrounds, Ipswich and the Gold Coast, to watch closely for COVID-19 symptoms on their return to South Australia and to get tested if any symptoms develop, even if very mild.

HVIS Stage 1

It's been two months since stage 1 change of ownership inspections for heavy vehicles has moved from industry to Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT, previously DPTI) locations only.

While booking availability has mostly been positive, we heard that long wait times on the phone and inflexible booking practices remain a concern.

We will be asking the new Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Hon Corey Wingard MP to bring inspections back to industry, and that in the meantime, the following should be implemented for DIT inspections:

- An efficient online booking system or the provision of a dedicated and responsive appointment hotline
- A drop off and pick up system so that drivers are not forced to sit and wait for an inspection to be completed.

Host Employer Fees

The MTA is continuing to work through all of the government incentives available, so that we can provide the best rates to host employers, to maintain apprentices in workshops. We are currently calling for an extension of the SA Government GTO Boost funding beyond

September 2020, on the basis that it has been critical in helping businesses to take on an apprentice during the current period, has retained apprentices in the automotive industry, and will undeniably help South Australia in our broader economic recovery.

SA Labor Policy Development

The SA Labor Leader, Peter Malinauskas MP, has written to the MTA seeking our input into SA Labor's policy development process. The MTA has welcomed this opportunity to provide its ideas, as now, more than ever, the automotive industry needs the support and partnerships from all levels of government.

Our submission, based on previous consultation with members, called for support in the transition to innovative automotive technologies such as electric and autonomous vehicle transport, whilst supporting our skilled workforce and facilitating better conditions for small and medium sized automotive businesses to grow and employ, resulting in a stronger economy and more job opportunities.

JobTrainer

Premier Steven Marshall this week launched an \$88 million JobTrainer program that will be targeted at school leavers and people who have lost their job during the coronavirus pandemic. JobTrainer will support individuals to study low fee courses in areas expected to see job growth.

While the courses that will be subsidised under JobTrainer have not yet been announced, the MTA will be advocating to ensure that the automotive industry is not overlooked.

JobKeeper 2.0

JobKeeper 2.0 legislation passed in Federal Parliament this week, with Labor failing to force the government to provide a \$600 a week wage floor for workers no longer entitled to the subsidy.

JobKeeper 2.0 starts on September 28. [Click here](#) to read more about the changes to JobKeeper and provisions for legacy employers.

If you have any questions about what the changes mean for your business, [click here](#) to contact the MTA WR Team or call 8291 2000.

Riverland Zone Meeting

Last week the MTA held a successful Riverland Zone AGM at the Berri Hotel, with members attending in person and via video conference.

Zone meetings are a great opportunity for MTA Members to network with other business owners in their area, as well as the opportunity to engage with and receive important updates from the MTA's Workplace Relations, Advocacy and Industry Engagement teams.



Congratulations to Kym Webber of Waikerie Crash on his re-election as Zone Chair and Stuart McKay of McKay's Auto & Ag Centre as Deputy Chair!

Body Repair Division AGM

The Body Repair Division AGM is scheduled for next Tuesday 8 September at 11am. [Click here](#) to register your attendance and for more information about what will be discussed at the meeting.

As always, I'm here to chat on any issue that is important to you and you can reach me on my mobile - 0419 814 642.

Enjoy the weekend.

Regards
Paul Unerkov
MTA SA/NT CEO

