



## A message from the CEO

### COVID-19 Update 21/08

This week we have been working hard to support members affected by the border restrictions which have [come into effect today](#). Disappointingly, SAPOL have advised that automotive repair and service does not fall within the category of 'specialist workers in essential sectors', despite the critical support our members provide to the agricultural, commercial freight, emergency services and health care sectors.

I have personally received a number of calls about this and I will be pushing strongly for this to be addressed when I meet with the Premier later today.

I am still waiting for a response from SA Health on any exemptions they may provide to affected members, but it appears that for the time being, members and their employees and customers in Victoria will be unable to enter or cross back into South Australia.

### COVID Marshals

Unsure if you need a COVID Marshal in your business?

Most of our members do not require a COVID Marshal, however if you have on-site consumption of food (such as a roadhouse), or you operate a distribution centre (for example parts and accessory warehousing and distribution) then you should nominate a staff member to complete the short and free COVID Marshal course by [clicking here](#).

Members are also calling to ask if they require a COVID-Safe Plan. For more information on whether you need a Plan or Marshall in your business [click here](#).

### Franchising Reforms

We welcome the government's decision to increase penalties, enhance dispute resolution mechanisms and demand further disclosure requirements to enhance protections for franchisees, following the Federal Government's formal response to the Parliamentary Joint Committee's Fairness in Franchising Report.

We will continue to advocate for improved recognition of goodwill, compensation, tenure, and warranty, as well as the inclusion of other automotive franchise businesses such motorcycle and farm machinery dealers in the code.

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[Click here](#) to read more about the Federal Government response.

### **Proposed extension of tenant/landlord COVID-19 response**

This week the State Government asked me for the MTA's views on a proposal to extend COVID-19 emergency response regulations, which included a a moratorium on evictions, as well as preventing landlords from increasing rent.

The MTA membership is diverse and includes both property owners and those leasing commercial properties. So while we support an extension of the measures, we have argued that it should be balanced against a demonstrated need for relief through JobKeeper eligibility, as well as supported through a further round of land tax relief which can be passed on to tenants.

### **JobKeeper for more employees**

Did you know that eligible employees hired after 1 March but before 1 July can now receive JobKeeper? Under JobKeeper 2.0 you are required to notify an employee that they are eligible, and if they return the nomination form, make top up payments by 31 August to ensure you're paid JobKeeper for the August and September periods for these newly eligible staff members.

To find out more, please contact our Workplace Relations team on 8291 2000 or by [clicking here](#).

### **Training and Skills**

The MTA has provided input into the Training and Skills Development Amendment Bill which will see the establishment of the South Australian Skills Commission and Skills Commissioner, as well as the expansion of the scope of trade and declared vocations.

As a trainer and employer of apprentices, we want to see a strong system which is supported by the State Government and works to the benefit of the entire automotive industry. While we are supportive of the overall intent of the Bill, we have used this opportunity to provide some minor constructive feedback.

### **National Automotive Industry Survey**

You may have noticed this week that we put out a call for members to complete the National Automotive Industry Survey. [Please click here to complete the survey](#), which should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

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Your responses are important and will help us to persuade all levels of Government with facts and evidence in support of funding, stimulus, policy and legislative outcomes that benefit the automotive industry.

Have a great weekend

Regards  
Paul Unerkov  
MTA SA / NT CEO

