



A message from the CEO

COVID-19 Update 7/08

This week we had our strongest reminder in recent months of the serious risk that COVID-19 represents to South Australia.

Although it appears that initial fears of an untraced community transmission did not occur, a further positive case linked to the Thebarton Senior College last night has forced the closure of the school with 70 students forced into hotel quarantine, and self-isolation for 1,100 people including the Opposition Leader.

This is an important wake up call that we must not become complacent, and the risks posed by existing cases and travellers returning from Victoria and other parts of Australia should keep us vigilant on social distancing and good hygiene practices.

The MTA is aware that the stage four lockdown in Victoria is placing extra pressure on automotive supply chains with considerable concerns on the availability of product to sell and parts used for repair coming out of Victoria. Keeping transport and freight moving safely is critical and I have been in regular contact with the transport industry and discussed supply issues with the Premier on Monday and will again tonight.

If we are to avoid further restrictions in South Australia it is important that we all continue to do our bit and remind staff who are unwell not to come in to work and obtain a COVID-19 test if they are displaying any symptoms, including fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath, or loss of taste or smell.

Information on where to obtain a free COVID-19 test can be found [here](#), and for information on how to self-isolate [click here](#).

Holden Senate Inquiry

On Monday, the Senate inquiry into General Motors withdrawing the Holden brand from Australia and their treatment of dealers began.

MTAA CEO Richard Dudley gave evidence at the Senate inquiry on behalf of MTA members which can be viewed by [clicking here](#).



The inquiry will be influential in setting the appropriate levels of protection for dealers of other automotive manufacturers who may consider an exit from Australia or a change in their distribution model.

Through the Senate Inquiry and in our dealings with the Federal Government, we are continuing to push for Government action on payment terms for dealers when a manufacturer chooses to exit the market, as well as adequate notice periods.

JobKeeper - Announcement last night

Following my discussions with several members this week, there was a strong sentiment that many may not qualify for the JobKeeper extension, based on stronger than expected June results. This is in spite of sections of the industry recording a sharp drop last month.

We used this information in our discussions with the Coronavirus Commission and Federal Treasury officials this week. Following these discussions, the Federal Government has released the revised qualifications for the JobKeeper payment:

From 28 September 2020, businesses seeking to claim the JobKeeper Payment will be required to demonstrate that they have suffered a decline in turnover using actual GST turnover (rather than projected GST turnover).

From 28 September 2020, businesses will be required to reassess their eligibility with reference to their actual GST turnover in the September quarter 2020 to be eligible for the JobKeeper Payment from 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021.

From 4 January 2021, businesses will need to further reassess their turnover to be eligible for the JobKeeper Payment. They will need to demonstrate that they have met the relevant decline in turnover test with reference to their actual GST turnover in the December quarter 2020 to be eligible for the JobKeeper Payment from 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021.

In addition, from 3 August 2020 the relevant date of employment will move from 1 March to 1 July 2020, increasing employee eligibility for the existing scheme and the extension.

You can download the Government's Extension of the JobKeeper Payment summary by [clicking here](#) or you can visit the MTA's COVID-19 Member Portal for more information by [clicking here](#).

Don't forget that our Workplace Relations and Advocacy teams are here to help you through these difficult times and they are only a phone call away on 8291 2000.

However if you would like to speak with me personally, I'm still here to chat and you can reach me on my mobile - 0419 814 642.

Enjoy the weekend.

Regards
Paul Unerkov
MTA SA / NT CEO

