



A message from the CEO

CEO Update 27/11

It has been nothing short of a relief that last week's Stay at Home orders have been revoked and that business has returned. Businesses across South Australia are understandably frustrated at the experience and its impacts to trade and customers.

Having vehicle and mechanical repair services added to the Directions was important for our industry and it is to the Premier's credit that the Government listened to the MTA's input following Wednesday's press conference announcement. Throughout the experience, our priority was to provide accurate advice on the directions to protect your business, while working with the Government to resolve areas of confusion.

The Government has acknowledged that the Directions on their own were not clear enough and created confusion in a number of areas for the South Australian economy. Indeed, we at times received conflicting advice and heard of varying enforcement outcomes from South Australia Police.

We are now in the process of advising the State Government as part of its lessons learned exercise. Moving forward, we will be seeking clarity around the definition of "essential services" as it relates to the automotive industry - which was considered an essential service during the first lockdown but under different conditions. This time around vehicle and mechanical repair was considered an essential service, but only to the extent necessary to facilitate other essential work or activities. We will also be seeking answers to questions around the decision to send the State into shutdown, in light of the huge economic fallout and the compensation requests that are flowing from this.

Extension of time to apply for the SA Government Small Business Grant

In response to the recent Statewide shut-down period, the State Government has extended the time in which to apply for [Round 2 of the Small Business Grants](#) for businesses (\$10,000) and sole traders (\$3,000) that remain impacted by COVID-19.

Applications are now open until midnight 28 February 2021, [click here to apply now](#).

Annual Christmas/New Year Close Down Requirements

Businesses that intend to close-down over the Christmas/New Year period are reminded that four weeks notice of the closure must be provided to employees, under both the Vehicle Repair, Services and Retail Award 2020 and the Clerks - Private Sector Award 2020,

Employees may access accrued annual leave during any close-down period, otherwise such period will be unpaid (except for any public holidays during this period, which will be paid as public holidays if the employee would ordinarily have worked on this day if not for the close-down and/or public holiday).

MTAA Appearance at the Senate Inquiry into the relationship between car manufacturers and dealers

The MTAA's CEO Richard Dudley appeared before the Senate Education and Employment References Committee currently investigating the relationship between car manufacturers and dealers.

You can view the MTAA's testimony below (you will need to download the video), or read a transcript [here](#).



Meeting with the Attorney-General

I am meeting with the Attorney-General, Vickie Chapman, today to discuss the [Recommendations of the Economic and Finance Committee's Inquiry into the Motor Vehicle Insurance and Repair Industry in South Australia](#). The Presiding Member of the Committee, Matt Cowdry, will also be attending the meeting.

We are calling on the State Government to support the Committee's findings by accepting all 11 Recommendations in full, particularly Recommendation 1, to introduce legislation to mandate the Code of Conduct in South Australia and a robust and binding dispute resolution process, with financial penalties for breaches to ensure compliance by all parties.

Workpac wins chance to overturn Rossato judgment

In good news for employers, the High Court has granted labour hire company Workpac special leave to challenge the full Federal Court's momentous Rossato casual employment ruling.

The labour supplier is seeking to overturn the judgment that paved the way for casuals to claim leave entitlements.

In their May judgment, the Federal Court found coal mine worker Robert Rossato, during his engagement on six consecutive employment contracts over almost four years to April 2018, to be a permanent Workpac employee entitled to be paid annual, personal/carers and compassionate leave, plus payment for public holidays during Christmas shutdowns.

Extension of Capital Investment write-off scheme

The Federal Government announced this week that companies with more than \$5 billion in turnover will now be able to instantly deduct the cost of new capital investments. The measure, announced in the October Federal Budget, was initially aimed at small and medium businesses with global turnovers below \$5 billion. Now, companies that make less than \$5 billion in Australia will be eligible to apply, no matter how much money they make globally.

I appreciate that this change won't affect many of our members, who were already eligible for the write-off scheme, but it will now capture any dealers who may have previously fallen outside of the eligibility criteria.

Enjoy your weekend

Regards

Paul Unerkov

MTA SA/NT CEO



[Twitter](#)



[MTA of SA/NT](#)



[MTA Automotive Apprentices](#)



[Website](#)



[Email](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



[YouTube](#)