



## A message from the CEO

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) update 29/4

#### MTA Workplace Relations training to resume in late May

Due to social distancing requirements, we temporarily suspended all face-to-face Workplace Relations (WR) training in March.

I am pleased to let you know that we will recommence face-to-face WR training on the 27th of May, beginning with; *Performance Management, Misconduct & Discipline*. This session was cancelled in March and if you were registered, please contact the WR team by [clicking here](#) to confirm your attendance in May.

From the beginning of June, all WR training sessions will be offered as both face-to-face and live webinar sessions, with the exceptions of *Emergency Warden* and *Electrical Testing & Tagging*, which will be offered as face-to-face only. If you were booked in for an earlier session of these courses that were cancelled, please contact the WR team by [clicking here](#) to confirm your attendance.

In the coming months, we will also be offering shorter, recorded WR training sessions on a range of topics that can be viewed at any time. I will let you know when these are available.

#### Continuing advocacy at a national level

It's a very busy time for all of us and advocacy on your behalf is continuing at a State, Territory and National level. We, along with the Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) and other state-based MTA's, are speaking with various Federal Government departments on a daily basis including Treasury, Industry, the ATO and the ACCC in regards to how they can provide better support for your business. The MTAA is in almost daily contact with the Deputy Commissioners for Small Business, senior Treasury officials regarding JobKeeper, the COVID-19 Business Liaison Unit and the National Coronavirus Commission. Representations have had a strong focus on apprentice training and the need to keep them employed.

We, in conjunction with other state-based MTA's and the MTAA, have also requested that the Federal Government give further urgent consideration for exemptions or alternative arrangements for automotive dealer franchisees from thresholds that are a significant barrier in receiving government assistance. These barriers include the number

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of employees in their business and turnover tests.

While we know that vehicle dealers were already in the midst of 25 months negative consecutive vehicle sales before the COVID-19 crisis struck, approximately 70 per cent of dealers nationally will not qualify for key relief packages announced, primarily as a result of their aggregated turnover or high staff levels. This is unacceptable and the Federal Government must amend the eligibility for these automotive dealers who do not qualify.

We have told the Federal Government that turnover **does not** equal profit and automotive dealers who are part of entities that have a turnover of more than \$1 billion annually are being hit very hard, as they must show a turnover downturn of at least 50 per cent to qualify for JobKeeper.

Our key recommendations to the Federal Government are:

- business size is irrelevant and automotive dealer franchises should be exempt from staffing and turnover thresholds, as currently mandated in Boosting Cash Flow for Employers relief, apprentice subsidy and commercial tenancy packages
- automotive franchise dealers with an annual turnover of \$1 billion or more be exempt from the 50 percent turnover downturn criteria mandated within the JobKeeper wage subsidy
- the Australian Government recommends to the National Cabinet that automotive franchise dealers should also become eligible for all state-sponsored relief and stimulus packages; and
- the Australian Government extends the deadline to the enhanced instant asset write-off until 30 September 2020

Regards,

Paul Unerkov  
MTA CEO

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