

## Media Release

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### ACTU must not be allowed to derail Jobs Summit

The peak body for Australia's 70,000 retail motor trades businesses has called on Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to immediately reassure industry that his September Jobs Summit will not be distracted or diluted by other issues.

Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) CEO, Richard Dudley, said reports of ACTU secretary Sally McManus planning to use the Summit to advocate for changes that will not help alleviate the nation's crippling shortage of skilled workers is of grave concern.

"The new Government won some well-deserved kudos by acknowledging the current skills shortage and promising to 'bring together stakeholders to address the challenges, Mr Dudley said.

"However, today's reports that the Australian Council of Trade Unions will use the Summit to lobby for counter-productive outcomes have already damaged optimism and support from business."

"Like many sectors, Australia's motor trades have long suffered from a lack of available skilled workers, which has been exacerbated by the pandemic and other inflationary pressures.

"Today we have some of the largest numbers of apprentices in training across the nation, yet we are still short more than 33,000 skilled positions".

"We understand other stakeholders have other issues on their agendas, but Prime Minister Albanese must publicly rein in the ACTU and ensure the Summit proceeds with the single focus of finding immediate solutions to the issue it was created to resolve," Mr Dudley concluded.

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