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7 August 2020



MEDIA RELEASE

MTAA WELCOMES CHANGES TO CRITERIA FOR JOBKEEPER

The Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) representations to the Federal Government, Commonwealth Departments and Agencies, to reconsider revised JobKeeper criteria beyond September, has contributed to meaningful changes that will assist automotive businesses secure jobs, particularly in Victoria, over coming months.

MTAA continues to appreciate the strength of relationships with the Commonwealth which has enabled it to quickly raise critical issues, have timely, open, and considered consultations and discuss potential solutions. The latest demonstration of this effective and meaningful consultation is the easing of eligibility criteria and the inclusion of employees engaged after 1 March 2020 for JobKeeper beyond September 2020.

MTAA CEO, Richard Dudley thanked the Prime Minister, Treasurer, Ministers and their departments and agencies for their ongoing commitment to consultation and consideration of critical industry issues raised including concerns on revised JobKeeper criteria.

‘MTAA and Member Associations provided direct feedback to the Treasurer, Ministers, the Treasury Department, the Coronavirus Commission, and others, that revised eligibility criteria for JobKeeper post September, (announced in late July) would mean more than 80% of current JobKeeper recipients in new car retailing in Victoria alone would not qualify. When combined with the mounting pressures of necessary Stage 4 restrictions in Victoria to suppress and contain the further outbreak of COVID-19, many businesses and more than 3,200 Victorian jobs were at risk as well as others across the nation still impacted by the pandemic,’ Mr Dudley said.

MTAA thanked Members and in particular the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce (VACC) and their new car dealer constituents for providing significant information that was used in high level discussions over the past two weeks and as late as yesterday which included potential solutions including the potential for alternative criteria that better reflected the current environment in Victoria and some other parts of Australia.

‘This is an extremely important ongoing assistance initiative for Australian automotive small businesses. For many it is the difference between staying open or closing the doors for good,’ Mr Dudley said.

MTAA will continue to provide advice and information on a range of other reform and stimulus initiatives to ensure the automotive sector not only recovers but remains sustainable in the long term.

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MTAA National Industry Associations

