



## POTENTIAL NEW MEMBER INFO

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To understand what Motor Trades Association NT (MTA (NT)) can do for you as a member we first need to put our industry into perspective and the role MTA (NT) plays within the industry. It is also important to understand the size and impact this industry has, not only on an NT scale but in a National context.

The Northern Territory's retail motor trades industry is part of a nationwide industry in which there are over 100,000 retail motor trades businesses with 310,000 plus employees. Australia's retail motor trades industry contributes over \$200 billion to the national economy.

The retail motor trades industry in the Northern Territory contributes to the economy through turnover of more than \$1.3 billion dollars with 1000 plus businesses and employs more than 4000 people.

MTA (NT) is a member of the Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) and on 4 July 2011 MTAA launched the Australian Motor Industry Federation (AMIF) as its national lobbying and policy arm. Membership of MTA (NT) continues to give members a voice at a federal level on issues affecting our industry.

AMIF is now the peak national representative organisation for the retail, service and repair sector of the Australian Automotive Industry and as a result is the largest 'stand-alone' small business association in Australia.

With the formation of AMIF as the national policy body for the motor trades industry, MTA (NT) aligned its activities with those earmarked by AMIF as industry priorities.

The priorities determined by the AMIF Board and endorsed by the MTA (NT) Board are listed below:

- Skills Shortage
- Training
- Skills Migration
- Apprentice training / retention
- Training packages
- Immigration processes
- Fair Trading
- Australian Consumer Law



- Unfair contracts / unconscionable conduct / Franchisee arrangements
- Taxation / Regulation
- Luxury Car Tax (LCT)
- Nationalised approach to Stamp duty
- Payroll Tax (harmonisation)
- Small business taxation
- Workplace Relations
- OH&S
- Apprentice wage rates
- Mentoring
- Environment
- Carbon Tax fines on small business
- Government grants
- End of Vehicle life policy
- Product stewardship

Additionally through AMIF's National Industry Sector Committees (which represent particular sub-sectors of the retail motor trades) MTA (NT) members can (and do) directly input and discuss industry specific issues at a national level.

Some of the key National Industry Sector Committees are as follows:

#### Franchised Dealers Division

Australian Motor Body Repairers Association (AMBRA)

Australian National Towing Association (ANTA)

Australian Tyre Dealers and Retreaders Association (ATDRA)

Auto Parts Recyclers Association of Australia (APRAA)

Automotive Repairers Association of Australia (ARAA)

Engine Re-Conditioners Association of Australia (ERA of A)

Australian Service Station and Convenience Store Association (ASSCSA)

Australian Motorcycle Industry Association (AMIA)

Farm and Industrial Machinery Dealers Association of Australia (FIMDAA)

National Rental Vehicle Association (NRVA)



Pursuing on the list of issues listed as priorities by AMIF you will see a common thread between national and with the local issues that MTA (NT) is currently working on at an NT level.

Whilst not all of the national sector committees are relevant in the NT those that are have been active in addressing issues both at a national and NT level. Below is a review of current activities by the sector committees.

### Franchised Dealers Division

Has been working on issues such as:

- Fair Trading
- Australian Consumer Law
- Unfair contracts
- Unconscionable conduct
- Franchisee arrangements
- Taxation / Regulation
- Luxury Car Tax (LCT)
- Virtual Car Sales
- Holding of monies by Manufacturers
- Auctions and their place in the sector

### Australian Motor Body Repairers Association (AMBRA)

AMBRA which is currently chaired locally by Peter Boscato has been working on issues such as:

- Shop grading
- E-MTA
- Realistic Time Realistic Money
- Insurance Company issues
- Repairer Licensing



- Access to Manufacturers repair standards
- National Theft Reduction Council Initiatives such as:
  - Repairable write offs
  - WOVR (Written Of Vehicle register)
- Skills Shortage
- Training
- Skills Migration
- Apprentice training / retention
- Training packages

#### Auto Parts Recyclers Association of Australia (APRAA)

APRAA which is currently chaired locally by Richard Sawyer has been working on issues such as:

- National Theft Reduction Council Initiatives
  - Repairable write offs
  - WOVR
- Carbon Pricing
- Restricted Refrigerant Recovery Training and License
- End of Life vehicles (ELV's)

#### Australian Tyre Dealers and Retreaders Association (ATDRA)

ATDRA which is currently chaired locally by Peter Donovan has been working on issues such as:

- Waste Tyre Stewardship Program including:
  - End-of-life tyre collection
  - Recycling costs
  - Retreaded tyres
  - Governance - Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA)



- Green Stamp Program
- Imported tyre standards and the relationship to ADR's
- Off road tyre compliance with ADR's
- Tyre importers and vehicle manufacturers and importers

### Automotive Repairers Association of Australia (ARAA)

ARAA which is currently chaired locally by Peter Donovan has been working on issues such as:

- Access to information and technical specifications
- Access to Manufacturers repair standards
- Auto Skills Australia
  - Skills Training and Development
  - AMIF funding application
  - Accelerated Training
- Award reviews
- National Roadworthy Tests / Certificates
- National Licensing of Repairers
- National position Electric / Hybrid / LPG vehicles
- Australian Consumer Law

It is easy to see from the list of issues being dealt with at a National level that there is a fair degree of commonality in the issues between the sectors. This commonality is also reflected in the issues being faced at a local level by you, MTA (NT)'s members.

### MTA (NT) CURRENT ISSUES & ACTIVITIES

The Board and the Secretariat staff continue to work very hard on a range of issues which affect our members. On a day to day basis these matters take up much of the work of the Secretariat and through this work members continue to have real access, information and input to National, Territory and Regional matters.



Some of the main ones are:

- Australian Consumer Law & the ACCC
- The Peak Industry Advisory Group (PIAG)
- MTA (NT) / MVR Working Group
- Tow Truck Roster
- MTA (NT) Website
- The Personal Property Security Register (PPSR)
- MTA (NT) Publications
- Access to Technical Information for Mechanical and Body Repairers
- Membership Benefits

### AUSTRALIAN CONSUMER LAW & THE ACCC

Considerable time was expended this year in trying to seek clarity to the number of unanswered issues in relation to the interpretation on the Australian Consumer Law (ACL).

From 1 January 2011, Australian businesses have operated under a single, national consumer law. The ACL has replaced different national, state and territory laws that set out consumer rights and business obligations when selling goods and services with a single, national set of rules. It covers general standards of business conduct, prohibits harmful practices, regulates a range of consumer transactions, provides basic consumer rights for goods and services and regulates the safety of consumer products and product-related services.

The MTA (NT) continues to work with the ACCC, the Northern Territory Consumer Affairs Department and with members to ensure best outcomes for consumers and to ensure that members have up to date information and advice.

### THE PEAK INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP (PIAG).

This group was put together to advise Government on Training and Workforce Development matters and MTA (NT) retained a lead and active role on this group throughout the year.

The primary objectives of the Advisory Group are to:

- Have training aligned to current and future employment opportunities
- Respond to skill shortages and emerging/growing industry sector needs
- Establish partnerships between government and industry sectors
- Have evidence based industry intelligence on labour market needs
- Align training effort and investment with the 2030 Strategy and the 20 Growth Towns initiative
- Advise the Department on the current and future training needs of industries across the Northern Territory
- Advise the Department of the skill and workforce development requirements of industries across the Northern Territory



- Offer advice on Departmental policies and programs that will assist in meeting these needs and requirements
- Obtain industry intelligence on labour market needs from those industry organisations/associations not represented on the Advisory Group
- Provide this information to the Department to monitor the delivery of vocational education and training across the Northern Territory and
- Advise the Department of any gaps in the delivery and of any emerging/growing industry sector needs or concerns.

MTA (NT) participated in and responded to a number of government working groups aimed at ensuring post school training and employment programs being funded by government are delivering outcomes that industry can use.

In addition MTA (NT) was involved in high level consultation in the Education Departments compiling of a Cabinet submission to establish the Darwin Trades Academy (similar to the Australian Technical College in which we had a founding role).

The role of PIAG is vitally important in making sure industry has direct conduit to the Minister in the training and employment arena and it important that this industry sector be represented at that table.

#### MTA (NT)/MVR WORKING GROUP

In my report last year I announced that regular meetings between MTA (NT) and MVR had recommenced. These meetings have continued and I am pleased to report significant progress has been made in a number of area's and the agenda items the working group is working on has expanded from the initial items of:

- A Review of Dealer Identity Authorisation Certificate Scheme
- Dealers Desk at Goyder Road – appointment regime for Dealers

To include:

- The resurrection of the “on line” dealer transaction portal
- A re-write of the MVR Dealers guide and
- A revision of MVR/LMVD operating procedures

One of the significant achievements out of this working group was the implementation of the appointment times roster for Dealers Desk at Goyder Rd and the individually negotiated times at other MVR's for LMVD's.



MTA (NT) has also been lobbying Government with regarding to re-establishing the online registration process for dealers. As most members would recall the online portal was ready

to be implemented nearly 8 years ago and was then shelved at the last minute due to Government budgetary constraints. As it stands the renewed move towards an “online system” has the support of the new Government and we hope that it is able to be implemented within the next twelve months.

### Operation of the Tow Truck Roster Allocation Scheme

MTA (NT) has successfully overseen the operation of the Tow Truck Roster scheme since the early 1990's and that was no different this year. The main aim of the scheme is to prevent tow trucks “racing” to accident scenes with consequent harassment of accident victims in order to secure a towing job (as happens in some other states).

Work is currently being undertaken to ensure the continued integrity of the scheme and MTA (NT) is consulting with the Justice Department to recall the Tow Truck Authority to strengthen the scheme and to provide further benefits to the members involved.

Some of the key points of the scheme are:

- MTA (NT) has operational responsibility for the operation of the Towing Roster
- In 2011/12 there were in excess of 600 tow allocations through the scheme
- There have been no consumer complaints lodged about the operation of the Tow Truck Roster Scheme

### MTA (NT) WEBSITE

In September 2014, we will be launching our new website. This has been about 12 months in the planning and we hope that it will provide you with easier access to information regarding MTA (NT) publications, membership benefits and some FAQ's.

### MTA (NT) Newsletter

On a fortnightly basis MTA (NT) produces a newsletter advising members of the activities the secretariat is undertaking on their behalf.

On a quarterly basis a more detailed sector specific magazine is distributed with more in depth information affecting the different sectors.

### THE PERSONAL PROPERTIES SECURITY REGISTER (PPSR)

The Personal Property Securities Register (PPSR) is the register where details of security interests in personal property can be registered and searched. The Insolvency and Trustee Service Australia (ITSA) is the Australian Government agency responsible for administering the PPSR and October 2011 saw its introduction.

One of the main advantages of the new national scheme is its use of the National Exchange of Vehicle and Driver Information System (NEVDIS).

When doing a motor vehicle search using the VIN or chassis number, the PPSR accesses NEVDIS to check for a match for the search criteria you have entered and this will establish whether or not the vehicle has been reported as stolen or written off.



Despite some initial teething problems the PPSR is now working efficiently and is providing a quick and efficient service to help protect LMVD's.

### MTA (NT) PUBLICATIONS

The guides which were launched several years ago in a fairly simplified form have now been upgraded into sophisticated (yet still easy to read) documents. These have been well received and used by the members. They continue to provide clarity to member through some very complex and confusing pieces of legislation.

2011/12 has seen each of the manuals updated, expanded and reviewed to ensure accuracy and relevance. These are currently being reviewed again.

### MTA (NT) DEALERS GUIDE FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF LMVD DIVISION MEMBERS

The main aim of the dealer's guide is:

- To provide details relevant to the purchasing, selling, registration and disposal activities of MTA (NT) members who are motor vehicle dealers
- To provide a starting point to enable Dealer Members in their understanding of what is required of dealers in their day-to-day business operations
- To provide clarity around Legislative requirements and to detail dealers' rights and obligations

### MTA (NT) EMPLOYMENT GUIDE

The Employment Guide outlines:

- The *Fair Work Act* and Regulations
- The *Independent Contractors Act*
- Other law of the Commonwealth or Territory that regulates the relationships between employers and employees (including by dealing with occupational health and safety matters)
- The National Employment Standards (NES)

The guide will also assist members to identify:

- terms and conditions of employment relating to the payment of wages
- guarantees of annual earnings workplace rights and other protections
- industrial activities and actions
- stand downs, dismissals and unfair dismissals and
- employee records and pay slips



## MTA (NT) SAFETY HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT GUIDE

This guide has received the most changes and updates along with the inclusion of the Environment section. Moving forward Environmental concerns are going to become a major concern for our industry and the potential for tighter regulatory controls is high. By being informed and by being part of the MTA's Green Stamp program will better prepare your business for any potential legislative requirements.

The Safety, Health & Environment Guide outlines:

- Information on safety, health and environment matters together with references to Northern Territory and Commonwealth legislation
- The explanatory memorandum for the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation)
- Operating procedures and systems of work for the conduct of workplace activities in the retail motor trades industry
- Safe systems of work to guide workers to perform workplace activities in a manner which will protect their safety and health

In an ever changing world of legislation and regulation work will continue to ensure that these publications are relevant and up to date. Work is now being focused on making them available and workable on the website.

MTA (NT) is also involved in:

- Membership networking activities
- Training
- Apprentice of the Year awards
- Charity events like the MTA (NT) Golf Day and the Christmas Charity Bowls Challenge
- Membership benefit and discount schemes
- Access to Technical and trade information

For a full explanation of the benefits call MTA (NT) on 8947 6990.