

BULLETIN

Industry Divisions



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Access to OEM Repair Information Update

Dear Member

Happy new year and all the best for 2019.

With a Federal election looming, VACC has been busy behind the scenes gathering support from both the government and opposition to commit to a key recommendation emanating from the 2017 ACCC New Car Retailing Market Study on access to vehicle manufacturer repair information.

Recommendation 4.1 of the report concluded that a mandatory scheme be introduced for car manufacturers to share technical information with independent repairers, on commercially fair and reasonable terms. A proposed mandatory scheme would provide independent repairers with access to the same technical information that car manufacturers make available to their authorised dealers and preferred networks, including environmental safety, and security related information.

Over the past 12 months, VACC along with the Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA) have provided substantial evidence where restricted vehicle repair information has negatively impacted members businesses and consumers. VACC and MTAA have spoken to numerous ministers about this issue including the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, cabinet members and senior government advisors. The associations have recently attended a stakeholder roundtable meeting on this issue which was organised by Treasury in Canberra.

VACC and MTAA secured the services of North American automotive industry consultants, who were key in the development of access to repair information legislation in North America and gained the support of other organisations who were influential in resolving this issue in that region. A key component of our advocacy efforts was the development of a draft code of conduct on access to vehicle repair information which was submitted to Treasury for consideration.

More recently, VACC CEO Geoff Gwilym wrote to the Shadow Assistant Treasurer, The Hon Dr Andrew Leigh MP to highlight the importance of this issue and to ensure it remains a high priority for a Labor Government leading into the next election. A copy of Mr Leigh's response can be found [here](#).

Mr Leigh has expressed a desire for local Federal Labor MP's and Candidates to visit VACC member workshops to further understand the barriers and impacts that restricted vehicle repair information is having on small businesses and car owners.

I am now seeking expressions of interests from members who would like to meet with their Federal Labor government representative to ensure they fully understand the impacts of this situation.

You can contact me on the details provided below.

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