

# BULLETIN

## VACC Industry Divisions



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### Access to Manufacturer Repair Information Update

Dear Member

The following information is aimed at providing you with an update on the issue of access to restricted manufacturer repair and service information.

VACC have long advocated for a solution to this issue culminating into the signing of the Voluntary code back in December 2014 of which, the VACC under the umbrella of the Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA), are signatory to.

More recently, the ACCC investigation into New Car Retailing found that the current system had failed to address the issue of access to vehicle repair information for independent repairers and the ACCC recommended a mandatory scheme. The Scheme would see car manufacturers share technical information with independent repairers, on commercially fair and reasonable terms. The scheme would also provide independent repairers with access to the same technical information made available to authorised dealers and preferred networks, including environmental, safety and security-related information.

The VACC and the MTAA are in support of this recommendation and have actively been working behind the scenes with Government and other industry stakeholders.

#### Advocacy efforts since the recommendation

- MTAA and members developed a Draft Code of Conduct as a potential solution to a mandated and prescribed scheme. It was hoped that the code would facilitate access to service and repair information, as previously recommended by the ACCC.
- MTAA provided briefings and a copy of the draft code to the Australian Automotive Dealers Association (AADA) and the Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association (AAAA). MTAA also informed the Australian Automobile Association (AAA) and offered a briefing to the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI).
- MTAA formally submitted the draft code to the Industry Department, the Treasury Department, and the offices of Ministers Sukkar and Laundy who are the two Ministers accountable for the ACCC and Treasury Policy regarding this matter. In addition, phone calls and discussions have occurred with advisers in both Ministers office.
- A further meeting was held with Treasury officials including MTAA's US consultant.

#### What is occurring presently

- The Treasury Department is continuing to progress the access to service and repair information project.
- MTAA and VACC are liaising with Ministers Laundy and Sukkar, the Treasury Department, Industry Department and ACCC as well as other automotive organisations to keep pressure on achieving a mandated and prescribed solution (a Code) being announced during this Parliamentary Term.

- Treasury Officials have been investigating the ACCC recommendation for a mandated scheme for some months from a policy implementation perspective and are believed to be nearing the end of those investigations.
- MTAA will be formally meeting with Treasury officials within the next 10 days and will provide a further update to members following that meeting.
- In the meantime, MTAA and VACC will also continue to advocate with various parties and will likely meet with FCAI in the next week to brief them on the draft Code of Conduct MTAA has prepared as a potential solution.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you have any issues accessing manufacturers service and repair information.

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