

Be Vigilant - we can't let our guard down

Things are tough for many members. Whilst there are pockets of our industry still running OK, the majority are not. VACC has fought hard to keep the automotive industry open during lockdowns and this has been a saviour for many businesses. However, the slowdown of traffic volumes and the limited use of all vehicles has meant even if a business is open it has likely had less work through the doors.

Maintaining COVID safe practices at work has been key to automotive businesses remaining open, and also staying off the radar, as far as outbreaks are concerned. This is a credit to all members and their staff.



As we enter what is hoped to be the last stages of the lockdowns, we must maintain our vigilance of safe COVID behaviors at work, implementing the wearing of face masks, using QR Codes and applying density quotients - and strict adherence to COVID safe plans.

As COVID numbers have increased within the community, the government has indicated that it is actively considering the introduction of further requirements that may impact our industry, including in relation to vaccination status and testing. These issues can be legally complex and particularly sensitive for a significant number of people within the community. Accordingly, I encourage members to seek advice from our Workplace Relations team before consulting with their workforce regarding the potential introduction of such additional COVID measures.

I am in constant discussions with government on the good work of the industry, but we can't risk the chance of getting worn down with the rules and dropping our guard. We don't need a situation where reports to government indicate the industry is not able to maintain its current safe work practices.

I ask all VACC/TACC members to redouble their efforts in these trying times. Examine your workplace and ask yourself 'is this place COVID safe and COVID compliant?'

The VACC team will continue its dialogue with senior ministers and bureaucrats to create more opportunities to open up automotive further under safe COVID rules.

Hopefully the end is in sight, but we must uphold our COVID safe work standards to make sure there are no trip wires as we head to the finish line.

GEOFF GWILYM
Chief Executive Officer