

Bulletin

Industry Divisions



Reference No. Skills Shortage letter/ir-3-22

Date: 08/03/2022

Dear member

VACC is aware of the hardship being experienced by members across all sectors of the automotive industry regarding critical skills shortages.

We have long advocated for the addition of automotive trades on the Priority Migration Skills Occupation List (PMSOL) and recent discussions with immigration experts has confirmed this is the best path forward to enabling business to access foreign labour, quickly.

Subsequently, VACC has drafted a template letter for you to place on your business letterhead and send to the politicians responsible for this area.

- The Hon Alex Hawke MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs, and;
- The Hon Stuart Robert MP, Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business

What do members need to do?

VACC asks members to follow the steps below to ensure your voice is heard:

1. Open the letter templates:
To Hon Alex Hawke MP [HERE](#)
To Hon Stuart Robert MP [HERE](#)
2. Update highlighted areas (date, your signature for each letter)
3. Copy content and either paste onto your business' electronic letterhead or print on company letterhead for hard copy.
4. Sign the letter (physically or with an e-signature).
5. Send hard copies to:
 - The Hon Alex Hawke MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs

The Hon Alex Hawke MP
Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs
Parliament of Australia
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

- The Hon Stuart Robert MP, Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business

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6. Email ireid@vacc.com.au to notify VACC you have sent the letters.
7. If you would prefer to email a soft copy to the Ministers, you can do so to the following addresses:
 - The Hon Alex Hawke MP: alex.hawke.mp@aph.gov.au
 - The Hon Stuart Robert MP: minister.robert@dese.gov.au
8. VACC has prepared the following cover text to accompany the letter if you are emailing:

Dear Minister

Please find attached a letter for your urgent attention regarding skills shortages experienced by the automotive retail industry in Australia. In summary, I am seeking your assistance to have automotive motor mechanics, automotive electricians and body repair trades prioritised for visa processing as a matter of urgency. Our industry is suffering due to major labour shortages, which in turn puts freight, government and personal vehicle fleets at a severe safety risk.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this letter with you in more detail at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully

Your name and company details

9. Please cc in ireid@vacc.com.au if emailing the Ministers.
10. Finally, if you would like VACC to send the letter on your behalf, simply place the attached, signed letter on letterhead and send directly to ireid@vacc.com.au. We will print and post for you.

Should you have any questions regarding this process or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me, Imogen Reid on ireid@vacc.com.au or 0428 334 128. Myself or a member of the team will happily assist.

Dr Imogen Reid
Lead, Strategy and Policy