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Urgent survey to measure impact of Government Assistance packages on automotive retail employment

All sectors of the Victorian automotive retail industry have been affected by the Victorian Government's COVID-19 Lockdowns. The impact on revenue and employment will be felt long into the future.

How can you help VACC to address the situation with both Federal and State Governments?

For VACC to provide evidence-based advocacy to both the State and Federal Governments on enhanced business support packages for Victorian businesses, we seek critical member feedback via participation in the following survey. Members can access the survey [HERE](#).

The purpose of the survey is to provide a picture to government of how access to the government assistance packages has, or has not, helped the automotive retail sector. It also hopes to provide valuable data insights into the employment landscape that automotive retailers face once business reopens and the need for access to overseas based labour hire will be more pronounced.

What are members concerns with Government support packages?

VACC has heard from members who are concerned by the inequity of federal funding between NSW and Victoria. VACC argues that the same criteria for access to funding should be applied across the states. VACC has been engaged with federal politicians, including the Prime Minister, to seek amendments to the allocation of federal funds in Victoria – so it is in line with the criteria applied in NSW.

What are VACC members telling us with regards to employment?

It is VACC member's view that the absence of funding in this regard has been a contributing factor to large scale stand downs of employees, or other employer action in pursuit of members alleviating business pressures created purely from the Victorian Government's lockdown rules.

VACC has also heard from members who are dissatisfied with the levels of support afforded to them from the State Government – including issues with business turnover criteria, payroll thresholds and the requirement to show a loss of revenue of over 70 per cent versus 2019 revenues.

Members can view the most current list of Government COVID-19 Assistance packages by following [this link](#). VACC thanks David Buckley and team at the Fordham Group for providing the document for VACC's member interest.

VACC member outlook for COVID-19 Lockdown

VACC members have advised that staff stand downs and other employment related action is being taken to alleviate the stresses faced by automotive retail businesses as a result of the continued Victorian Lockdowns. This includes changes to staff levels of much sought after vehicle technicians and apprentices. It is likely many of these skilled employees will not return to this sector. This will further exacerbate the pressure on all members to operate their business.

Other

It is important that you know that VACC has accelerated dialogue with the Prime Minister's Office in pursuit of equal federal subsidy allocation for Victorian automotive retail as offered in NSW.

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