

# BULLETIN

## Industry Divisions



Reference No: EPA-GED/jk-10-20

Date issued: 22/10/2020

Dear member

The Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) in collaboration with the VACC's ARD, AED and ERRD Executive committees have, for the past 12 months been working on a Small Business Pilot Program. The program is designed to support small automotive workshop businesses and enable them to be prepared for Victoria's new [general environmental duty](#) (GED) intended to commence July 2021.

The new environment protection laws mean that if you conduct activities that pose a risk to human health and the environment, you must understand those risks. You must also take **reasonably practicable** steps to eliminate or minimise them. The EPA has released a document which explains this in detail. You can access this by taking this [link](#).

The small business program pilot will provide tailored expert advice to businesses, focusing on risk assessment management. You are required to be available for two consultant visits between February 2021 and February 2022 and fill out two short surveys following each visit. Your answers will help EPA understand the benefits of the program to businesses like yours. Note that EPA **will not** attend these visits and will not receive your personal information from the consultants.

The advice is **free**, with EPA covering the cost of an experienced consultant to visit your business. You will receive a **personalised** action plan that lists how your business can start or improve how to manage risks of harm from pollution or waste. This advice may help you comply with the new laws. While the program is administered by EPA, your participation is private and **confidential**.

### ***Who can apply?***

If you are a small repair and maintenance business who employs less than 60 staff, you can apply to take part in this program.

Registrations for the pilot program will commence shortly and will be limited to 50 small automotive businesses across Victoria. On-site visits by consultants are scheduled to begin in February 2021 and run for 12 months. You can pre-register your interest to participate [here](#) or by contacting me directly.

**John Khoury**

**Industry Divisions & Policy Advisor**

ARD, AED, ERRD, GD, SVA, Auto Trans, ATRA, LVT

**VACC**

Level 7 | 464 St Kilda Road | Melbourne Vic 3004

P: 03 9829 1153 | M: 0412 510 108 | W: [vacc.com.au](http://vacc.com.au)