

BULLETIN

Victorian Automobile Dealers Association



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Dealerships were never, ever being considered to close down

VACC has received calls from members of the Victorian Automobile Dealers Association (VADA) concerned at the contents of an email they have received from a third party that advises of information emanating from the Office of the Premier of Victoria, indicating automotive dealerships have permission to remain open in this state.

VACC would like to assure VADA members of the following:

1. Never, at any stage has the Victorian Government intimated or advised anything to suggest that dealerships should close and that members of the public should not visit a dealership.
2. Never, at any stage, has the Australian Government intimated or advised anything to suggest that dealerships should close and that members of the public should not visit a dealership. In fact Prime Minister Morrison has, as recently as 25 March, advised that 'people can still go to car yards'.

VACC acknowledges that mixed messages may be emanating from Government(s) and media.

3. Yesterday morning the VACC OHSE Unit released specific guidance that addresses the Stage 3 restrictions as announced by the Prime Minister on 29 March 2020. These new restrictions prohibit the indoor / outdoor gathering of more than 2 people. This advice announces that the Stage 3 restrictions apply to all non-essential gatherings. Exemptions to this include members of your immediate household and for work or education.
4. **A copy of the VACC OHSE Unit advice can be read by taking this [link](#).**
5. The VACC relationship with the Victorian Government is collaborative and cordial. As the peak body representing new car dealers in Victoria if any decision regarding automotive industry closure was being contemplated by the Government(s) then VADA and VACC would be part of those conversations. There have been none.
6. If a VADA member chooses to close all or part of their dealership then that is a decision taken for considered reasons by the owners of that dealership. VACC will continue to support all VADA members irrespective of the business decisions taken.

The email being circulated should be disregarded. The message contained is sensationalist, was unnecessary and has caused anxiety and further stress for VADA members who are already battling issues arising from COVID-19.

Members should continue to consult with VACC on any matters.

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