

# Media Release

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**For immediate use**

**13 April 2015**

## **Automotive Industry takes lead to support apprenticeship education with launch of multimillion dollar donations**

This evening VACC will launch a multimillion dollar donation program designed to support vocational trainers that deliver quality automotive training that meets industry needs.

VACC with the support of a diverse group of vehicle manufacturers has developed the Automotive Industry Donation Program of parts, components and vehicles to assist training organisations that meet industry standards. The Program is designed to support the training of apprentices and school based VET students on the latest of technology, which is costly and difficult for trainers to secure.

“The Automotive Industry Donation Program is a great example of an industry led initiative for a community outcome,” VACC Executive Director, Geoff Gwilym, said.

“Stakeholders have come together to address a pressing need and the spirit of cooperation has been outstanding. Our motivation is to ensure automotive training is of the highest order and that Australia’s vehicles are as safe as possible,” Mr Gwilym said.

The Program aims to assist in attracting and training more technicians, of which Registered Training Organisations and secondary schools are central to the automotive technical training resource equation. The fast pace of change in the automotive industry requires a consistent renewal of training resources in learning institutions. To date, responsibility has fallen on the places of learning which is unsustainable and creates pockets of inconsistency when cost of investment in new technology is high.

“Vehicle manufacturers and VACC which represents more than 5,000 automotive businesses recognise the need to support our quality trainers with access to quality learning resources, this means having our future technicians learn their trade with current vehicle componentry and vehicles. This will ensure they grasp the technical complexities early on in their training,” said Mr Gwilym.

VACC is also pleased to welcome the Automotive Training Board of NSW as a distributor partner in NSW, which means that the program will benefit training across Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales.

VACC acknowledges and thanks the following vehicle manufacturers into the Donations Program: General Motors Holden, Mitsubishi Motors, BMW, Toyota Australia, Fiat Chrysler Australia, Iveco Australia (CNH Industrial) and Cummins.

Automotive training organisations that deliver secondary school VET or automotive apprenticeship training will be invited to apply to benefit from the Program.