

A WIN FOR AUSTRALIAN CAR OWNERS – VEHICLE DATA SHARING BECOMES A REALITY

AAAA signs historic automotive industry Heads of Agreement on access to service and repair information for motor vehicles.

It is with great pleasure that we announce that on December 15 last year, the AAAA signed a momentous automotive industry Heads of Agreement. This agreement is the culmination of a five-year 'Choice of Repairer' campaign led by our Association, which included the intervention of two Federal Ministers (from both sides of politics) as well as an Inquiry conducted by the Commonwealth Consumer Affairs Advisory Council.

The signatory parties to the Heads of Agreement are the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (representing the car industry), the Australian Automotive Dealers Association (representing the new car dealers), the Australian Motor Industry Federation (representing the retail motor trades), the AAAA (representing the independent aftermarket) and Australian Automobile Association (representing car owners).

The agreement outlines a set of agreed principles, a governance structure and dispute resolution process. It is intended to provide a safeguard to consumers and a competitive market to ensure that the availability of repair information does not become a barrier to entry in the automotive service and repair market.

Core principles include:

- That consumers are able to choose who maintains and/or repairs their motor vehicle,
- That the repairer will be able to access all information required for the diagnosis, body repair, servicing, inspection, periodic monitoring, and reinitialising of the vehicle, in line with the service and repair information manufacturers provide their authorised dealers and repairers,



Pictured at the historic signing of the Heads of Agreement for the sharing of vehicle repair and service information were Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association, President Bob Pattison; AAAA Executive Director, Stuart Charity; Australian Automotive Dealer Association Chief Executive Officer, Patrick Tessier; Federal Minister for Small Business, Bruce Billson; Australian Motor Industry Federation Chief Executive Officer, Richard Dudley; Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries Chief Executive, Tony Weber; and Australian Automobile Association Director of Government Relations, James Goodwin.

- That service and repair information will be made available on commercially fair and reasonable terms.

Other principles ensure that consumers receive full information regarding the maintenance and repair of their vehicle and the parts used in that repair. The agreement also protects vehicle manufacturers' trade secrets as well as any information that could affect the integrity of a vehicle's security or regulatory compliance.

Another critical aspect to the agreement is that the Signatories note that the progressive uptake of emerging vehicle telematics technologies are enabling increased transmission and use of data relating to vehicle use, performance and diagnostics. They have agreed to implement a process to develop protocols relating vehicle data access and ownership – with progress on this to be reported within 12 months.

The agreement allows for a three month implementation timeframe and each signatory is required to implement their own internal codes of practice/member agreements to give effect to the obligations and responsibilities under this agreement. You will hear more about the AAAA's code of practice over the coming weeks.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank industry colleagues from the other signatory organisations for their efforts in arriving at an agreement in what has been a very difficult

process for all involved and we look forward to working with them to ensure that the operative provisions of this agreement are fully implemented and communicated to the wider industry. We would also like to acknowledge the Hon Bruce Billson, Federal Minister for Small Business whose leadership on this issue was instrumental in the parties ultimately arriving at an outcome that strikes a fair balance between the interests of consumers and the various segments of the automotive industry.

If you would like to hear more about this agreement and its implications for your business we will be presenting a free seminar on this topic on Friday April 17, at the 2015 Australian Auto Aftermarket Expo which will be held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre.

To register for the Expo and this seminar visit www.aftermarketexpo.com.au



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