For immediate use

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Finally...the Automotive Industry gets its own national training advisory body

The Australian Automotive Industry has finally been granted its own national training advisory body, Auto Skills Australia (ASA).

Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations has formally congratulated the Automotive Industry and the new Board of ASA. The Minister confirmed that the role and responsibilities of this new body would be the same as a Skills Council, although it will not have that title.

“We have been fighting very hard for this moment and see this announcement as a victory for the Australian automotive industry,” VACC Executive Director, David Purchase, said.

“In our view, the automotive industry has not been properly represented since the formation of Skills Councils in 2003-04. While Auto Skills Australia is not totally independent, the body is sufficiently independent for us to have confidence in it,” Mr Purchase said.

“We always felt the automotive industry was at a disadvantage as it did not have a full voice in the development and delivery of industry Training Packages,” VACC General Manager, IR and Training, Leyla Yilmaz, said.

“Training Packages are guidelines for the delivery and assessment of training for apprentices and trainees to industry standards. Now we have an opportunity to shape skills and training to ensure the automotive industry goes from strength to strength.

“Auto Skills Australia will allow the automotive industry to have control of its own destiny. The industry will be able to directly communicate the Industry’s skill needs to government and other decision makers on training matters, collect and utilise important data which will lead to important decisions on skills shortages and labour needs and provide resources to assist employers with skilling of the workforce,” Ms Yilmaz said.

VACC, TACC, all MTAs and many other organisations, including the Manufacturers, are behind ASA. ASA is expected to be fully operational on 1 July 2011 with the appointment of a new CEO.

Ends.