

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Auto Women Announces 2026 Round 1 Scholarship Recipients

Auto Women is proud to announce the recipients of the 2026 Round 1 Auto Women Queensland Scholarships, recognising two exceptional women whose dedication, drive, and commitment to the automotive industry are exemplary. Congratulations to Taylah Johnson from McCarthy's Panel Works for receiving the Leading Edge Scholarship, and to Elsie Miklovic from Eagers Automotive Mt Gravatt for receiving the Executive Ready Scholarship.

In the three and a half years since joining McCarthy Panel Works, Taylah Johnson has grown from Customer Service Representative to the person responsible for running the day-to-day operations of a busy collision repair office, including production scheduling across the entire workshop team. Her ability to build trust with clients, understand the technical requirements of the repair process, and connect meaningfully with the people around her has made her an integral part of the business. Taylah has also demonstrated a capacity for systemic thinking well beyond her years, developing and implementing a formal Work Experience Training Program that is now used across the paint and panel departments - a contribution that speaks to both her initiative and her investment in the industry's future.

"I am deeply honoured to receive this scholarship," said Taylah. "The automotive industry is full of opportunities, and I am committed to continuing to grow, to learn, and to contribute to a culture where others - particularly young women - can see a real and rewarding future here."

With eleven years of experience across multiple sectors of the automotive industry, Elsie Miklovic has built a career characterised by consistent commercial performance and an unwavering commitment to developing the people around her. Currently serving as a Senior Car Care Consultant at Eagers Automotive in Mt Gravatt, Elsie has previously led teams across two states, delivering year-on-year growth and earning four internal mentor awards within the Eagers network - a recognition that reflects the depth and sincerity of her investment in others. Having reached a pivotal stage in her career, Elsie is focused on translating her operational expertise into national leadership, with a clear vision to formalise the mentoring and advocacy work she already provides to women across the organisation.

"This scholarship represents an opportunity I intend to honour not just through my own career progression, but through the tangible difference I can make for the women I work alongside," said Elsie. "I am committed to using what I learn to elevate the standards, visibility, and opportunities available to women in the automotive industry, and to being a resource that others can turn to as they navigate their own paths."

Auto Women Co-Founder, Kellie Dewar, said the calibre of this round's recipients reinforced the vital role the scholarship program plays in developing automotive leadership talent.



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"Taylah and Elsie represent the full spectrum of what the Auto Women Scholarship program is designed to support," said Kellie.

"What unites both recipients is not just their professional capability, but the way they show up for the people around them. That is the kind of leadership that changes industries.

"The Auto Women Scholarship program exists to ensure that women like Taylah and Elsie have access to the development, recognition, and opportunity they deserve. We are incredibly proud to support them both and look forward to watching them go on to make their mark."

The Auto Women Scholarships are presented by MTA Queensland, in partnership with Women & Leadership Australia, and proudly supported by Care Super.

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For more information:

Jade O'Shea | Senior Marketing & Communications Coordinator | 3237 8721 | jadeo@mtaq.com.au

Background:

Established in 2022 by the Motor Trades Association of Queensland (MTA Queensland), Auto Women is a national initiative dedicated to advocating, promoting, and connecting women in the automotive industry. Through scholarships, events, resources, and advocacy, Auto Women champions visibility, leadership, and equality for women in trades and traditionally male-dominated roles. Expanding nationally in 2025, the program continues to drive progress and create opportunities for women shaping the future of automotive.

