



## Update from the Commissioner

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2024. The Commission team, the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria and I are looking forward to meeting with many of you throughout the year about what is needed to ensure we continue to build a safer, stronger disability sector in Victoria.

Earlier this month we were proud to sponsor the 2024 VALID Having a Say Conference in Geelong and spread the message that people with all types of intellectual disability are able to come to us with complaints and issues about disability workers. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with people from across the disability sector, inform them about the work of the Commission and the importance of disability worker registration, and respond to any queries people had about our functions.

I also had the pleasure of participating in our 'Spend your day your way' workshop. It was a fantastic opportunity for participants to connect with Commission staff and understand what we do as well as help us better understand how we can support people with disability when giving feedback about their support worker. We've got some photos and more information about our time at the conference below.

Next month we are excited to be heading to Shepparton for the Victorian Disability Worker Commission - Shepparton Public Forum. It is a free event where you can learn more about the Commission and our services. If you are in the area, I encourage you to come along. Details on the event and how to register are below.

We plan to visit other regional centres over the course of 2024, and we look forward to meeting those you who are based outside of Melbourne.

## Upcoming events

### Shepparton Public Forum

We are pleased to be hosting a forum in Shepparton where Commissioner Dan Stubbs will provide attendees with information on our different functions - complaints and notifications about disability workers, and disability worker registration. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

**Date:** Thursday 7 March 2024

**Time:** 10:00 am to 11:30 am

**Where:** Quality Hotel Parklake Shepparton - 481 Wyndham Street Shepparton, VIC 3630

[Click here](#) to register for your free ticket (Includes morning tea at the end)

## What's been happening

### VALID Having a Say Conference 2024

The Victorian Disability Worker Commission was proud to be a platinum sponsor of the 2024 VALID Having a Say Conference. VALID is the peak body for intellectual disability and it was fantastic to interact with so many people from right across the disability sector over the two days.

Highlights included:

- Commissioner Dan Stubbs delivering the keynote speech during the opening ceremony where he spoke about the importance of speaking up when something isn't right with the support you receive.
- Our 'Spend your day your way' workshop. Delivered in conjunction with the Disability Services Commissioner, we were joined by 30 participants and talked about the importance of getting the most out of your time with your support worker or service.

- Most importantly, the valuable conversations we had at our booth, with people with disability, support workers, carers and others from across the sector.



Image description: All smiles at the VDWK booth, the team hosting our 'Spend your day your way' workshop and Commissioner Dan Stubbs delivering his keynote speech.

## Midsumma March 2024

Commissioner Dan Stubbs represented the VDWC at the Midsumma Pride March on Sunday 4 February. It was great to see so many participants this year promoting the message of tolerance, diversity and inclusion.

We recognise that many people with disability, disability workers and family members identify as LGBTQIA+ and that this can be a factor for some in receiving quality and safe services.



Image description: Commissioner Dan Stubbs proudly representing the VDWC at the Midsumma March.

## For the disability workforce

### Have you been thinking about becoming a registered disability worker?

If you're unsure why registration is so important for people with disability and the wider sector, [click here](#) to read some of our registered worker's stories.

To learn more about registration visit [vdwc.vic.gov.au/registration](https://vdwc.vic.gov.au/registration)

*Proud to be a*



**Registered Victorian  
disability support  
worker**

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## **Notifiable conduct**

An important way to help increase safe and quality disability services in Victoria is to notify us of poor or high-risk conduct by disability workers. Any disability worker can notify us and all employers of disability workers should notify us.

The simplest way to make a notification is by calling 1800 497 132 or via the website [vdwc.vic.gov.au/notifications](https://vdwc.vic.gov.au/notifications)

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## **Subscribe to new prohibition orders**

The Commissioner is able to issue prohibition orders to avoid serious risk to the life, health, safety or welfare of a person with disability or of the public. In some cases, the disability worker may only be able to practice if certain conditions are met.

You can [sign up](#) to receive direct email alerts when there is an update to the public prohibition orders page of the Commission website.

For more information visit [vdwc.vic.gov.au/prohibition-orders](https://vdwc.vic.gov.au/prohibition-orders)

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**Education sessions**

Our team can conduct information sessions on the work of the Commission both in-person and virtually, and tailor the material to the needs of your organisation. If you are interested in finding out more or arranging a session, please reach out to [education@vdwc.vic.gov.au](mailto:education@vdwc.vic.gov.au)

## Keep in touch

If our e-newsletter was forwarded to you and you'd like to subscribe please go to: [vdwc.vic.gov.au/subscribe](https://vdwc.vic.gov.au/subscribe)

If you have any questions or comments, please get in touch via our website [Contact us](#) page, send an email to [info@vdwc.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@vdwc.vic.gov.au) or call us on 1800 497 132.

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