



Update from the Commissioner

Welcome to our April newsletter.

We are pleased to announce the launch of our annual disability sector survey. The survey helps us to identify the type of information and resources that are important to people in the disability sector regarding complaints, notifications and registration of disability workers. We would really appreciate your feedback in continuing to build a safer sector for people with disability. There is further information about the survey below.

In other news, our growing range of engagement with the sector is resulting in interesting and useful feedback and learnings. We headed to Shepparton at the beginning of March for our first regional visit of the year, where we met with a number of local organisations and hosted a public forum. Read more about the event, our appearance in the Shepparton Adviser and plans for future regional events below.

Annual sector survey



Seeking your views

Are you a person with disability, a disability worker, carer or service provider? The Victorian Disability Worker Commission (VDWC) is seeking your feedback on a range of topics including registration of disability workers, complaints and notifications under the Victorian Disability Worker Regulation Scheme.

We are seeking your participation in a survey. The survey will take around 15 minutes, and to thank you for your time you can enter to win 1 of 10 \$100 eGiftpay vouchers.

The information received will help the Commission to identify what people with disability, their families and carers, disability workers and service providers need to better understand the Scheme.

The survey is being run by an independent company ORIMA Research. No personal information will be provided to the Commission and is not linked to responses.

[Click here to start the VDWC Survey.](#)

If you have difficulties with the online survey, or need to complete the survey in another way, please email VDWCsurvey@orima.com or call ORIMA on 1800 883 345. Tell them it is about the VDWC survey.

If you want more information about the survey, please contact VDWC by emailing info@vdwc.vic.gov.au

The survey closes Tuesday 23rd April.

NEW! Training & Development Catalogue

We are excited to launch a tool that will take your continuing professional development (CPD) to the next level! Introducing our **new Training & Development catalogue, a one-stop-shop offering over 200 training courses from a range of course providers.** This searchable catalogue will provide easily accessible information about training and development resources, assist registered disability workers to fulfill the 10 hours of CPD required to maintain registration and improve the quality and safety of the support they provide. You'll be able to search for a particular training topic, for example training about autism, or different areas you'd like

more information on such as inclusion and rights, and it will even show you how the training is delivered, whether online or in person.

[Click here to check out the catalogue.](#)

Social Services Regulator

In February , the Victorian Government announced the Victorian Disability Worker Commission and Disability Worker Registration Board will merge with the new Social Services Regulator in 2026. (The merger will occur for the Disability Services Commissioner this year.)

There will be no reduction in safeguards or service quality for people with disability resulting from this merger, as all functions of the VDWC and the Board will be delivered by the Commission and Board over the next two years and will continue as part of the new Social Services Regulator from mid-2026.

[Click here to read the government's media release.](#)

What's been happening

Shepparton public forum

At the beginning of March, we jumped on the train and headed up to Shepparton for our first regional public forum of 2024. It was fantastic to connect with so many local people and organisations, some of whom had not heard of the VDWC before, which shows the benefit of holding events like this.

We had many beneficial conversations and learnt about the challenges people with disability, families, advocates and provider organisations in the area faced, including:

- attracting high-quality workers,
- access to key practitioners and specialists, and
- training opportunities.

These learnings are really important and will help us to build a safer sector for people with disability.



Image description

Image 1: Commissioner Dan Stubbs presenting to public forum attendees. Image 2: Commissioner Dan Stubbs, with event MC and disability advocate, Colleen Furlanetto OAM.

Upcoming events

Traralgon public forum

After a wonderful trip up the highway to Shepparton, we are now heading south-east and hosting our next public forum in Traralgon in May.

Commissioner Dan Stubbs will provide attendees with information on our different functions: the code of conduct for disability workers; complaints and notifications about disability workers, and disability worker registration. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

Keep an eye on our socials for more information.

In the news

The Shepparton Adviser | Disability Commissioner visits Shepparton

'We know there are things happening in the disability service sector that we're not hearing about. And so, as we learn more, we'll be able to drive improvement and safety.' - Commissioner Dan Stubbs

[Click here to read the full article about our visit to Shepparton in The Shepparton Adviser.](#)

For the disability workforce

Stay off your phone!

A guide for disability support workers

VALID has released a fantastic video called '*Stay off your phone! A guide for disability support workers*'. It is aimed at building capacity of disability support workers informed by lived experiences of community members who employ them. This resource was developed by the Banyule/Darebin Peer Action Group and is an initiative of VALID and Advocacy WA.

[Click here to watch the video.](#)

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