



Update from the Commissioner

Welcome to our September eNewsletter.

Firstly, I want to thank everyone that has renewed their disability worker registration, it has been great to see so many renewals come through. This shows a worker's commitment to continually increasing safety and quality for people with disability in Victoria. I encourage you to let your colleagues know about disability worker registration and remind them to become registered if they haven't yet done so.

We have done a lot of sector engagement this month, which is wonderful. It is so important that we meet with as many people as we can to raise awareness about the Disability Worker Regulation Scheme but also hear from members of the community about their experiences.

We travelled to Mildura for our third regional visit of the year and hosted a public forum, round table sessions and met with a number of local organisations, people with disability and their families. I also had the pleasure of speaking at several events this month including, the Virtual Disability Conference, DARU Conference and a Pathways To Care networking event. You can read more about these events below.

Finally, I am delighted to announce I have been re-appointed as Commissioner for another three years. [You can read more on our website.](#)

Mildura Public Forum

Earlier this month, Commissioner Dan Stubbs and VDWC staff hosted our latest public forum and round table sessions in Mildura. It was wonderful to visit Mildura and demonstrate how the Scheme increases the safety and quality of the disability sector.

It was a great opportunity to hear from people with disability, local service providers and advocates across the region about the different impacts and issues they're facing and how we can support them.

We were pleased to learn that people see disability worker registration as a way of attracting the right people into the disability sector and to the region and that people like that we deal with all the little problems that result in disrespectful service.

Next, we will be in Bendigo in November – so please let us know if you're in that region, would like to attend a forum or have suggestions about people and organisations we can connect with by emailing us at education@vdbc.vic.gov.au.



Image 1 and 2: Commissioner Dan Stubbs and VDWC staff presenting to attendees at the Mildura Public Forum.

Supporting quality disability support in schools

If you're a parent or carer of a child with disability, you want to feel confident that the disability services they're receiving from disability workers, whether at school, home or in the community, are safe and high quality. This is where the role of the Victorian Disability Worker Commission (VDWC) comes in. The VDWC works to protect and promote quality of disability work for people with disability, including children and young people, by regulating all workers who provide disability services in Victoria.

Within a school setting, different regulators consider the conduct of education staff who provide a range of different services. This includes the VDWC, which regulates disability workers, while regulators such as the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) regulates teachers, and Ahpra regulates allied health professionals.

The VDWC regulates education support staff who work specifically with students with disability to support their learning, such as staff who might be employed as education support officers, integration aides, learning support officers or teachers' aides. All disability workers, regardless of the setting, must comply with the Disability Service Safeguards Code of Conduct.

If you have a child with disability and you are concerned about the quality or safety of disability support they are provided by their disability worker, you can call the VDWC on **1800 497 132** to discuss your concerns. Anyone can make a complaint about the professional conduct of a disability worker to the VDWC. If you're not sure whether your concern is something you can make a complaint about, you can contact the VDWC to discuss. If we're unable to assist you, they will do their best to help find out who can help with your concern.

You can also ask your child's disability worker to register as a disability worker with the VDWC (registration is currently free) so you can rest assured knowing their disability worker has met set standards for safety, skills, experience, and professional development.

For more information, visit vdbc.vic.gov.au

Disability worker registration

It has been pleasing to see so many disability workers renewing their registration for 2024-25. All registrations must be renewed by 31 October 2024, so if you or your staff haven't renewed, don't delay!

If you are a disability worker and not yet registered, there is no better time than now to do so. As a disability worker, you do crucial work and registration allows you to be recognised as a member of a sector that values safety, respect and quality of work.

Registration is free and if you have an NDIS Worker Screening ID number it's even easier to apply.

For more information and to register visit vdwc.vic.gov.au/disability-worker-registration

Resources in your language

We have recently translated our *Registration information for people with disability* fact sheet into eight languages. The fact sheet is now available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese - Simplified](#), [Chinese - Traditional](#), [Filipino](#), [Hindi](#), [Punjabi](#), [Sinhalese](#) and [Vietnamese](#).

To view these fact sheets and more visit vdwc.vic.gov.au/about/in-your-language

Out and about

As part of our mission to raise awareness of the Disability Worker Regulation Scheme and inform disability workers of their obligations under the Act, Commissioner Dan Stubbs has been out and about engaging with disability workers and people with disability across Victoria.

Pathways to Care

The Commissioner had the pleasure of participating in a panel discussion at the Pathways To Care networking event in Bendigo.

It was a fantastic opportunity to speak about the Disability Worker Regulation Scheme and how it keeps the sector at a high standard and supports people with disability and workers.

Virtual Disability Conference

We were pleased to be involved in the 2024 Virtual Disability Conference as the symposium sponsor. The Commissioner was joined by board members Jessica Sullivan and Kelly Schulz to present the benefits, opportunities and lessons learned so far as Victoria's disability workforce regulator.

The panel spoke about:

- How disability worker registration supports choice & control for people with disability.
- Why it is so important for providers/employers to notify the Commission if a worker puts a person with disability at risk of harm.
- How many disability workers tell us that worker registration is positive as it helps raise the standard of the sector they are proud to work in.

Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU) Conference

The Commissioner was delighted to be part of the panel discussion on Making Victoria the Safer State at

the Disability Advocacy Resource Unit conference. Dan said, "So important to hear from advocacy groups who are crucial to the work the Commission does because without good advocacy we don't hear about the real problems we need to know about."

Dan was asked what good regulation looks like and he said it's about being independent and responsive to the people we exist for - Victorians with disability.

What's on across the sector

Melbourne Disability Connection Expo

Navigating NDIS services, and the search for service providers can be a big task and it never stops for participants, carers, family members and guardians. Developing Australian Communities is hosting the Melbourne Disability Connection Expo. The expo brings participants of NDIS, families, children, adults and those looking for disability service options together with service providers and the community. Find hundreds of search provider options under one roof, with space to spend time, connect with multiple options, get support and your questions answered from a range of professionals.

The expo also includes loads of entertainment (face painters, balloon artists, hair braiders and more), hourly performances and lots of chill out areas so you can enjoy your time, not just access information.

When: 18th – 19th October 2024

Where: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Cost: FREE!

For more information developingauscommunities.com.au/melbourne-expo-2024-visitor/

What would you like to see in our eNewsletter?

We want to make our eNewsletter as engaging and useful as possible, so we would like to hear your thoughts.

We invite you to complete a short survey to help us understand what topics you're most interested in. [Click here](#) to complete the survey.

Information sessions

Don't forget our team can conduct information sessions on the regulation requirements of disability workers, both in-person and virtually. We can 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@vdc.vic.gov.au

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