



Update from the Commissioner

Welcome to a special edition of our eNewsletter, our 5th birthday edition!

July 1st marked five years since the Victorian Disability Worker Commission was launched and Victoria introduced new regulations for all disability workers to build a safer, stronger disability sector. These changes were introduced in response to the Victorian Parliament's 2016 Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services, which called for safeguards and accountability across the sector.

The introduction of the Disability Worker Regulation Scheme, which included the Code of Conduct, mandatory notifications and complaints service, marked a significant step forward to better protect people with disability by setting clear, consistent standards for all disability workers.

Since then, we've supported over a thousand Victorians with enquiries, to raise concerns, taken strong action when needed and worked to ensure every person with disability receives safe, respectful, high-quality services, regardless of how those services are funded.

As we celebrate five years, we thank the community for their trust and ongoing support. We remain committed to putting people with disability at the centre of everything we do.

Revised disability worker registration standards - from 1 October 2025

The Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria has approved revised disability worker registration standards following public consultation. The revised registration standards come into effect on 1 October 2025 and provide greater guidance to workers on standards for:

- criminal history
- English language

- continuing professional development (CPD)

The purpose of the review was to ensure the standards are clear, work well and provide all the information disability workers need to understand and meet them.

A public consultation report and advance copies of the revised registration standards are now available on the [VDWC website](#). The consultation report summarises what we heard from sector stakeholders and how the Board responded to this feedback in finalising the revised standards. For a quick and easy way to learn more about the consultation and revised registration standards, [watch our short video](#).

The revised standards take effect at the start of the 2025-26 registration period, from 1 October 2025. This means they apply to all currently registered workers and all applicants for registration from this date onwards.

The Board and Commission thank everyone who provided feedback during the consultation. Your input helps to support and build our framework for recognising the skills, quality, and capability of Victoria's disability workforce.

Mandatory notifications webinar NOW AVAILABLE

Did you miss our recent webinar on mandatory notifications or just want to watch it again?

The recording is now available on our [website](#). You will also find a copy of the Q&As that were asked during the webinar.

As a disability worker or employer, understanding your obligations regarding notifiable conduct is important so don't forget to share the link with your colleagues.

Count it towards your Continuing Professional Development (CPD)!

By watching the webinar, not only are you learning important information about notifiable conduct, if you are a disability worker registered with the VDWC, you can also count it towards your CPD requirements.

Don't forget to check out our [Training and Development Catalogue](#), it is a fantastic platform to assist you in finding training and development resources from a range of course providers to assist you to complete your CPD requirements.

New resources available to help you to make a complaint

Making a complaint is a great way to improve services for everyone and can assist disability workers to make positive changes in their work and practice.

Complaints made to the VDWC have led to improvements like:

- clarifying roles and responsibilities

- ensuring that support plans are up to date and followed
- better communication and consultation between service users, families and disability workers

To improve the safety and quality of care and service standards across the Victorian disability service, it is important to raise your concerns. The simplest way to make a complaint is through our website: vdwc.vic.gov.au/complaints or by calling 1800 497 132.

To support you in making a complaint, we have developed new resources. You can check them out here:

- Do you have concerns about your disability worker? fact sheet [PDF/Word](#)
- Making a complaint fact sheet [PDF/Word](#)
- What happens after you make a complaint? fact sheet [PDF/Word](#)
- Complaints postcard [PDF](#)
- Complaints and notifications flowchart [PDF](#)

In the sector

Regional disability worker scholarships – round 2 applications open on 21 July

The Victorian Government is helping more disability workers to deliver services in regional and rural Victoria. It is doing this by providing financial support to complete a course in disability.

Scholarships of \$3,500 will be available to students studying with an approved Victorian training provider. At the time of applications assessment, the applicant must be studying or recently graduated from:

- Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability) (CHC33021), or
- Certificate IV in Disability Support (CHC43121).

Students completing the dual Ageing and Disability specialisation of the Certificate III in Individual Support may also be eligible.

The scholarships are available for domestic students living in regional Victoria and there are a limited number available. Students with disability and students from First Nations communities are encouraged to apply. They will be prioritised for a scholarship.

Applications open on Monday 21 July 2025 and close on Monday 15 September 2025. For more information and to see if you are eligible visit dffh.vic.gov.au/regional-disability-worker-scholarships

Out and about

Learning from our international counterparts

In May, Commissioner Dan Stubbs and Commission representatives met virtually with the Ontario Personal Support Workers Association (OPSWA) and the Northern Ireland Social

Care Council (NISCC) to learn more about how they developed and implemented their worker registration scheme, support the workforce and navigate similar legislative challenges.

Despite the tricky time differences, it was well worth the effort to connect and hear how organisations with similar schemes and goals are progressing in their parts of the world. The conversations offered valuable insight into their dedication to improving outcomes and safety for vulnerable communities and their determination to raise the profile, recognition and standards of disability and care workers.

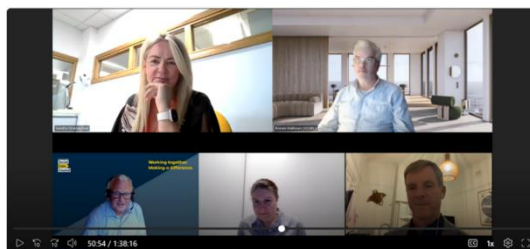


Image descriptions: - Image 1: Screenshot of online meeting with OPSWA. Image 2: Screenshot of online meeting with NISCC.

Successful VALID Advocacy in Action Conference

Congratulations to the VALID team and all the advocates and self-advocates who attended the conference. It was a pleasure to be a part of the 2025 VALID Advocacy in Action Conference on 16-17 June. The event was a great opportunity to connect with disability advocates, people with disability, workers and service providers as well as many others from the wider sector to discuss issues, opportunities and insights in disability advocacy.

Working with disability advocates is crucial to our work at the Commission, so it was very beneficial to have so many great conversations at our VDWC table and we took so much away from the outstanding program.

Commissioner Dan Stubbs was pleased to participate in the closing panel session along with Rod Carracher (NDIS Deputy Commissioner, Practice Quality Division), Jonathan Kaplan (Victorian Social Services Regulator), Mary Mallett (Principal Advisor, Inclusion Australia) and Treasure Jennings (Chair Commissioner, Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission) to share his thoughts on Regulation, Safeguarding and Advocacy by/for People with Disabilities.



Image descriptions: - Image 1: Commission staff member at the VDWK table. Image 2: Commissioner Dan Stubbs speaking to attendees at the closing panel discussion.

NDS Understanding Victorian Regulatory Environment

Commissioner Dan Stubbs was pleased to speak to disability service providers at the Understanding Victorian Regulation webinar hosted by NDS on 18 June. It was a valuable opportunity to provide greater clarification to providers about our role and functions within the Victorian regulatory landscape, particularly their obligations to notify us about worker misconduct.

We are always looking for ways to provide further education to providers and employers about their obligations and support them to comply. We encourage organisations to [contact us](#) for more information or to arrange an information session if they would like more information.

In the media



Every person with disability deserves quality support that makes them feel safe, happy and respected. But what does quality support look like?

The Victorian Disability Worker Commission featured in latest edition of Link Disability Magazine discussing what people with disability truly value in a support worker.

[Read more on pages 24-25.](#)

Do you have an event or story to share?

We love showcasing the great work happening across the disability sector. If you have an upcoming event, initiative or story you'd like to share in a future edition of our eNewsletter, contact our communications team at info@vdwc.vic.gov.au

Do you need to update your email address?

Are you changing jobs soon and going to have a new email address? Let us know if you change your email address to keep receiving our eNewsletter. Contact us at info@vdwc.vic.gov.au and we will update your details.

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For more information visit vdwc.vic.gov.au



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