The facts:

Registration information for people with disability

July 2021

Voluntary registration of disability workers started on 1 July 2021. Registration aims to improve quality and choice of disability support. It forms part of the Victorian Government's "zero tolerance" approach to abuse of people with disability.

Why should I choose a registered disability worker?

It can be hard for people using disability services to be assured of the skills and expertise of disability workers. Not all disability workers are assessed for safety and competence in the same way. Registration will help you to better access services that are safe and high quality.

No matter how they are funded or employed, registered Victorian disability workers are independently assessed as safe, skilled, and professional by the regulator, the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria.

From 1 October 2021, you will be able to quickly and easily check the Register of Disability Workers at www.vdwc.vic.gov.au to see if a worker is registered.

What do workers need to register?

The *Disability Service Safeguards Act 2018* (the Act) requires registration applicants to show that they have the necessary knowledge, skills and attributes for safe practice to be registered as a disability worker by the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria (the Board).

The Board will also assess workers' suitability for registration by considering:

- any impairment that may detrimentally affect a person's capacity to practise safely
- relevant criminal history
- English language competence
- cancellation or suspension of registration as a disability or health worker
- prohibition or banning orders in relation to the provision of health or disability services or the care of children
- is the person a fit and proper person to be registered?

Will I be able to choose a registered disability worker?

You can choose to have registered workers provide disability services.

This means you can choose the right disability worker for you, knowing they have the necessary knowledge, skills and attributes for safe practice.

Visit vdwc.vic.gov.au
Call 1800 497 132

VDWC Victorian Disability Worker Commission

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Can I choose a registered disability worker if I have an NDIS plan?

Yes, registered workers can work across all types of organisations, including NDIS service providers, or they may be self-employed.

Registration ensures Victorian disability workers are assessed as safe, skilled, and professional, no matter what service provider your disability worker works for, where they advertise their services or how their services are funded.

This means you can choose a registered disability worker through your NDIS plan.

Can I choose an unregistered disability worker?

You may decide to choose a worker who is not registered. Unregistered workers in Victoria are required to abide by a Code of Conduct. The Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner regulates unregistered disability workers.

The Disability Service Safeguards Code of Conduct is set out in the Disability Service Safeguards Regulations 2020, which are rules made under the Act.

All Victorian disability workers must abide by the Disability Service Safeguards Code of Conduct and this provides a standard to protect people with disability from harm and abuse.

The Disability Worker Register

All registered disability workers will be listed on the public register of Victorian disability workers that will be available at: www.vdwc.vic.gov.au.

You can search the register of Victorian disability workers to find registered disability workers near you.

On the website you will also be able to find a list of Victorian disability workers who have had a prohibition order issued against them.

About the Victorian Disability Worker Commission

The Victorian Disability Worker Commission is an independent body established to better protect people with disability and build a stronger, safer disability sector. It is responsible for the Disability Service Safeguards Code of Conduct, establishing the minimum expectations for all workers in Victoria supporting people with disability, and the complaints service. It can accept complaints and notifications, with powers to investigate and ban workers who put people's safety at risk.

Visit our website **vdwc.vic.gov.au** or call 1800 497 132

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