



The facts:

# About the Disability Worker Regulation Scheme

The Disability Worker Regulation Scheme started on 1 July 2020. It includes:

- a Code of Conduct for all Victorian disability workers
- mandatory notification requirements for providers and workers to report concerns that a disability worker may be putting safety at risk
- an independent complaints service where quality and safety concerns about any Victorian disability worker can be reported.

## About the Code

The Code of Conduct is an important tool to protect people with disability from harm and abuse by establishing the obligations that unregistered Victorian disability workers must abide by. The Code of Conduct will apply to all disability workers, regardless of whether they are funded through the NDIS or other providers.

The Disability Service Safeguards Code of Conduct (the Code) is set out in the Disability Service Safeguards Regulations 2020, which are rules made under the *Disability Service Safeguards Act 2018*.

The Code sets out the obligations that all Victorian disability workers must abide by and provides a standard to protect people with disability from harm and abuse.

The Code is designed to complement the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework to promote a safe and skilled disability workforce within Victoria. The Code adopts the NDIS Code of Conduct, promoting consistency in the requirements for worker conduct in Victoria, regardless of whether they are funded through the NDIS or other providers.

## Who is covered by the Code of Conduct?

The Code applies to all disability workers employed or otherwise engaged to deliver disability services in Victoria, regardless of their funding source.

## About notifications

Anyone can tell us about a concern that a disability worker may be putting safety at risk. This is called a 'notification'. Under the *Disability Service Safeguards Act 2018*, disability workers and employers must notify the Victorian Disability Worker Commission if they believe that a worker has engaged in certain types of misconduct.

This part of the Disability Worker Regulation Scheme helps make the Victorian Disability Worker Commission aware of potential risks to disability service users, so we can better prevent and protect people with disability from harm. A notification must be made when a disability worker or employer reasonably believes that a disability worker has engaged in notifiable conduct.

# Help build a safer, stronger, disability sector



## The Victorian Disability Worker Commission now takes complaints about disability workers in Victoria

Our complaints service is independent, unbiased and free. In handling complaints about individual disability workers, we aim to promote the quality, safety, responsiveness and sustainability of the disability workforce.

## Voluntary disability worker registration commences 1 July 2021

We understand the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting disability workers in different ways and is causing stress and uncertainty in the sector. Delaying registration by 12 months will allow time for the workforce to recover after the crisis before engaging with a new registration scheme.

### About the Victorian Disability Worker Commission

The Victorian Disability Worker Commission is an independent body. Led by Commissioner Dan Stubbs, its job is to better protect people with disability and build a stronger, safer disability sector.

It is responsible for the code of conduct, establishing the minimum expectations for all workers supporting people with disability, and the complaints service. When notified, it has the power to investigate and ban workers who put people's safety at risk.

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