**VDWC End of year message video transcript**

**Speaker: Commissioner Dan Stubbs**

Hi everybody, my name is Dan Stubbs, the Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner.

Here at the Commission, we've had a particularly VDWC 2023 where we've been incredibly and wonderfully busy working with the sector promoting complaints and registration and working hard to build a stronger, safer disability services sector in Victoria.

It's great to have been out and about meeting with and working with many of you from right across the disability sector in Victoria. We've worked with a whole range of organisations and people, we've built new relationships as well as continued to develop a whole lot of existing relationships.

It was great to work with disability advocacy organisations, organisations of people with disability, disability services unions and peak bodies right through 2023 including some really valuable roundtables that we held with the sector and I think a lot of that information that we received from you and the information we're able to share was invaluable to how we're going to continue to support the sector into 2024.

Supporting you to understand how the Commission does its work and how we can assist the disability community to continue to improve is so important to us. We've delivered this in a range of ways over the course of this year, we've conducted webinars some of them in partnership with disability organisations to assist people to understand what we do and how to get to us, we've also provided accessible fact sheets and a range of smaller group education sessions to assist in that understanding and of course we're working on increasingly getting out to the whole of the Victorian community because anyone in Victoria can make a complaint about their disability support worker and we want to make that easy for people.

And also, this year has been such a year of change across the disability sector right across the country. We've seen the Disability Royal Commission, we've seen the review of the NDIS and many other changes in policy and law. We're really proud to have been part of advocating for change at the Disability Royal Commission. I appeared at the Royal Commission at the beginning of this year and I'm so pleased to have seen the Royal Commission come out with a recommendation supporting our registration scheme in Victoria. It's so good to be the only state in Australia that already has a disability worker registration scheme and we expect that sort of scheme to be replicated right across Australia with the implementation of the Disability Royal Commission's recommendations.

In 2023 we also saw more disability workers come forward and voluntarily register as a registered disability worker in Victoria. I was also pleased to see so many registered disability workers renew their registration this year, so great to see registration growing. We also encourage anyone who uses disability support workers or employs disability support workers to ask them to become a registered disability worker, to show that they are really promoting and providing quality, safe services in Victoria. They can show that by meeting the standards that we put out there for disability workers to meet as high-quality disability workers in Victoria.

Next year we're really looking forward to working with a number of disability service provider organisations and platforms to support disability workers working through them to become registered disability workers in Victoria, so that'll be an exciting time for workers and employers in 2024.

I continue to be impressed by the quality and dedication of disability workers right across the disability services sector, but there is still a minority of disability workers out there who don't do the right thing and for those people we really need to hear about concerns you might have. So if something's not right, and it doesn't matter how your worker is funded or how they're employed you can tell us. If it's you as a person with disability, or you're a worker or you're a family member, give us a call. This is how we also continue to increase quality and promote safety for people with disabilities in services right across Victoria. So you're not just helping improve and make safer your own services, but you're making things better for other people with disability too and that's so important.

Finally, please do keep in contact with us at the Commission. You'll see our website details at the end. We'd also love you to subscribe to our e-newsletter which comes out once a month. Follow us on our socials where we're always providing new information about what we're doing so you can keep up to date with our work, and if you're not sure if you've got a complaint or notification you need to make just give us a call, we're happy to talk you through what's required. The number is 1800 497 132 and we can talk you through the issues you might be going through.

So our New Year's resolution at the Commission is to continue to support and build a stronger, safer and high-quality disability service sector in Victoria. So from us at the Victorian Disability Worker Commission, we wish you a very VDWC New Year for 2024, thanks.