



Update from the Commissioner

Welcome to our August eNewsletter.

It's been a really important month for the disability community, as the Commission prosecuted its first disability worker in a case against someone who breached Interim Prohibition Orders. The outcome of this case represents the first enforcement action of its kind under section 263 of the *Disability Service Safeguards Act*, establishing an important precedent for the protection of people with disability in Victoria. It's an important matter for the sector because in taking this enforcement action, it's clear that unsafe practice by disability workers will be followed up on and there will be consequences. I am proud of the work we continue to do to uphold the rights of people with disability, including the right to be safe from harm. You can read more about this case below.

August means registration renewal time! If you are eligible to renew your disability worker registration, you would have received an email from our Registration team earlier this month. If you have any questions or need assistance, please give our friendly team a call on 1800 497 132 or email registration@vdbc.vic.gov.au.

Finally, it's been great to get out and about and present to a number of disability providers and support organisations over the last month. It was really valuable to meet and hear from so many people across the sector whilst also sharing information about the work we are undertaking here at the Commission. You can read more about this below.

Important updates

Disability worker pleads guilty to breaching orders to stop working with people with disability, fined \$15,000

A disability worker from Melbourne's north has been fined \$15,000 after pleading guilty to contravening Interim Prohibition Orders by continuing to provide disability services to people with disability in Victoria while banned from doing so.

[Click here](#) to read our public statement.

For details of other disability workers the Commissioner has prohibited, please visit our Prohibition Orders page at: vdwc.vic.gov.au/prohibition-orders. You can also subscribe to receive an alert each time an order is made.

Update on disability workers affected by ASQA integrity action on training providers and qualifications

The Australian Skills and Quality Authority (ASQA), the national regulator for the vocational education and training (VET) sector in Australia, continues to take regulatory action to ensure the integrity of the VET sector. Some of this action affects the disability sector.

Please see our [public statement](#) which includes links to information available.

New members of the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria

We are pleased to announce the appointment of new members to the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria, Ross Coverdale and Emily Sandison, and the reappointment of continuing Board members. Please visit the [Board page on our website](#) to view their bios.

We extend our thanks to outgoing Board members Maryanne Diamond AO and Jessica Sullivan for their great contribution to the work of the Board in promoting a quality workforce in Victoria through disability worker registration.



Changes to worker screening rules

Changes to worker screening regulations will see greater recognition of disability worker regulation decisions in safeguarding across the disability and child services sectors.

Updated worker screening regulations now provide that certain decisions made by the Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner, and the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria, can form the basis of a reassessment of a NDIS worker screening clearance or a Working with Children Check. This includes decisions to issue Prohibition Orders to disability workers, or to take immediate action to suspend or impose a condition on a disability worker's registration, or to prohibit that worker.

In addition, holders of a NDIS worker screening clearance or Working with Children Check must notify the worker screening unit if these regulatory decisions or findings are made about them.

More information for current check holders is available [here](#).

Out and about

Brain Injury Matters peer support group meetings

Commissioner Dan Stubbs and other VDWC representatives were pleased to attend a series of Brain Injury Matters peer support group meetings held across Melbourne and online over the past month.

Brain Injury Matters is a self-advocacy and community education organisation run by and for people with Acquired Brain Injury.

We spoke to attendees about how the VDWC can support them if they have a concern about their disability worker, including the types of complaints we can take and what that process might look like. We also spoke about the importance of disability worker registration, and how registering not only demonstrates a worker's skills and professionalism, but also helps strengthen safety and quality for people with disability.

One of the key messages we shared with attendees was if they are unsure whether we can help with their concern, just contact us. If we're not the right organisation, we will assist you to find the right place.

The discussions were lively and insightful and there was a lot for us to learn and take away from these meetings.



Image descriptions: - Image 1 and 2: Brain Injury Matters attendees at peer support group meetings.

Citizen Advocacy Sunbury and Districts presentation

Commissioner Dan Stubbs visited Citizen Advocacy Sunbury and Districts to meet with both advocates and people with disability who are part of the program. It was a great opportunity to hear from the organisation about what they are seeing as issues in the disability sector and share information about how the VDWC can support them.

Citizen advocates play an important role and it is crucial they know when and how to raise concerns with the VDWC regarding poor quality or unsafe service from a disability worker.

Both the VDWC and Citizen Advocacy continue to push for greater participation for people with disability in the community.



Image description: Attendees at the Citizen Advocacy Sunbury and Districts presentation.

Supporting service providers to comply with making a mandatory notification

To assist disability service providers in fulfilling their responsibilities to report notifiable conduct, we have been meeting with disability service providers across Victoria to answer questions about situations that require a notification.

These conversations highlighted the importance of reporting conduct by disability workers that may put the people they support at risk. We also reinforced that we are here to support providers in fulfilling their legal obligations, and that it is crucial to notify us, even when a worker has moved on, to ensure other people with disability are not put at risk.

Key themes that came up during our conversations included the difference between complaints and notifications and what happens once a notification is made.

While we heard the challenge of reporting to different organisations, we explained that the VDWC works cooperatively with other regulators. If you are unsure whether your concern is something you can make a complaint or notification about, you can contact us to discuss. If your concern is not something the VDWC can assist with, we will do our best to find out who can help you.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

What's on in the sector

Introducing the new Victorian Disability Advisory Council

The Victorian Government has appointed a new Victorian Disability Advisory Council (VDAC) to continue the important work in making Victoria more inclusive and accessible. There are 13 members in the new council, a combination of 8 new members and 5 returning members. VDAC provides independent advice to the Victorian government on ways to improve the inclusion and participation of people with disability in the community.

The council consists of Chris Varney (Chair, re-appointee), Mija Gwyn (Deputy Chair, re-appointee), Husna Amani, Stella Barton, Kelly Ann Blake, Amir Brand-Abdi (re-appointee), Bianca Failla, Helen Freris, Melissa Hale, Jen Hargrave (re-appointee), Timothy Harte, Nicole Karidis and Laura Pettenuzzo (re-appointee).

The council members bring a wide range of lived experience of disability and expertise in inclusion and reflects the diversity of the community, and includes a First Nations community member.

[Click here](#) for more information about the Victorian Disability Advisory Council.

Reminder! Round 2 of the regional disability worker scholarships are now open

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 close on Monday 15 September 2025. [Click here](#) for more information and to see if you are eligible.

Disability Discrimination Act Review | Consultation open

The Australian government is reviewing the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, to make sure it is working to protect people with disability. They're seeking feedback from people with disability, families, carers and kin, legal professionals, advocates, service providers, employers, unions, educational bodies, small businesses, academia and the broader community.

[Click here](#) to have your say.

Renew your disability worker registration

Applications to renew your disability worker registration for 2025-26 are now open. All registered workers would have received an email from our Registration team at the start of August with details on renewing your registration to ensure it stays active.

Don't forget your continuing professional development (CPD) requirements

To renew your registration you must have completed and recorded a minimum 10 hours of CPD activities for the year.

If you need to top up your points, don't worry, there is still time. You have until 30 September 2025 to complete your CPD. Check out our [Training and Development Catalogue](#), it has a wide range of resources that can assist. Make sure to keep a record of your CPD in an [activity log](#) for easy reference at renewal time.

We've moved!

The Commission has moved office and we are now located at Level 1, 2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

As always, if you would prefer to meet us in person to discuss a complaint or notification, you can call us on 1800 497 132 to make an appointment to meet with one of our team members. You can also visit our [website](#) to complete an [online form](#).

What do you think of our eNewsletter?

Your feedback will help us share information that is relevant to you, your work and the people you support.

[Click here](#) to complete the two minute survey about what you want to know. All answers are anonymous.

Keep in touch

If our e-newsletter was forwarded to you and you'd like to subscribe please go to: vdwc.vic.gov.au/subscribe

If you have any questions or comments, please get in touch via our website [Contact us](#) page, send an email to info@vdwc.vic.gov.au or call us on 1800 497 132.

For more information visit vdwc.vic.gov.au



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