



November eNewsletter

Important updates

Farewell to Dan Stubbs and welcome of new Commissioner, Kate Maddern

Commissioner Dan Stubbs has finished his role as Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner. Dan was the inaugural Commissioner and led the Commission since his appointment in 2019. We thank Dan for his immense contribution establishing the Commission. You can read more about Dan's departure [here](#).

We are pleased to announce that Kate Maddern has been appointed Acting Commissioner. Kate has been a key leader at the Commission since 2019 and led the establishment of the Commission and the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria. Kate is passionate about the role of the Commission and Board in providing safeguards and quality disability services for Victorian people with disability. You can read more about Kate's appointment [here](#).



Image description: Acting Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner Kate Maddern, standing alongside outgoing Commissioner Dan Stubbs.

Release of VDWC and Board Annual Report 2024-2025

The Victorian Disability Worker Commission and the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria are proud to present their Annual Report 2024-25.

This report provides an update on the key achievements and milestones of both the Commission and Board and the work being done to build a safer, stronger disability sector in Victoria. We are also pleased to present a summary of highlights, 2024-25 At a Glance.

Some of our key achievements mentioned in the Annual Report are:

- 1,016 registered disability workers

- 6,740 people engaged through awareness education about disability worker regulation
- 51 Interim Prohibition Orders and 5 Prohibition Orders made.

To view the Annual Report and the At a Glance summary please use the below links:

[Annual Report 2024-25 PDF](#)

[Annual Report 2024-25 \(accessible\)](#)

[At a glance 2024-25 PDF](#)

[At a glance 2024-25 \(accessible\)](#)



Revised disability worker registration standards in effect

Revised disability worker registration standards took effect from 1 October 2025.

The standards apply to all applicants for disability worker registration and to registered disability workers.

The three registration standards are:

- Criminal history
- English language requirements
- Continuing professional development.

Registration standards promote a safe, sustainable disability workforce and high-quality disability services.

We reviewed and updated the registration standards to ensure they work well and meet the expectations of the disability sector. We listened to feedback from the disability community following a public consultation and made changes to make it easier for disability workers to understand and comply with the standards.

To find out more about the registration standards [click here](#).

To read the 2025 public consultation report about the standards click here [PDF/Word](#)

To watch a short video about the revised standards [click here](#).

Out and about

Public forum in Frankston

We were joined by the Disability Services Commissioner for a public forum in Frankston. Our panel of presenters discussed how VDWC and DSC support safe, quality disability services through our respective complaints functions, and how disability worker registration promotes professionalism across the disability sector.

It was great to see such a broad cross-section of the community in the audience, coming together to connect, share information, and ask questions.

If you're interested in having some of our team attend a disability sector event in

outer Melbourne or regional Victoria to provide information on our work please let us know at info@vdbc.vic.gov.au



Image description: Image 1 - photo of panelists from VDWC and DSC; Image 2 - photo of attendees at the forum listening to panel presenters.

Come and say "Hi" to us at the Melbourne Disability Expo!

The VDWC will have a booth with staff in attendance at the Melbourne Disability Expo. The expo will be at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 November 2025 from 9 am to 3 pm. This is a great opportunity to meet some of the VDWC team, collect resources and important information, and find out more about our work.

If you are attending, head to our booth for a chat!

In terms of getting there by public transport, Trams 96, 109, and 12 stop directly outside the Clarendon Street entrance at stop 124A. Alternatively, you can walk there from Southern Cross Station. If you intend to drive, Wilson Parking has underground parking at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

You can find out more about the expo on their website
- <https://melbournedisabilityexpo.com.au/>

What's on in the sector

Updates to guideline for management of acute respiratory infection outbreaks in residential care facilities

The Department of Health has updated their [Management of acute respiratory infection outbreaks, including COVID-19 and influenza, in residential care facilities](#) guideline.

This resource provides respiratory outbreak management advice for residential care facilities (including disability residential services) along with a list of downloadable resources. Key updates include:

- Revised recommendations on residents' release from isolation post-COVID infection
- Updated staff return to work recommendations post-COVID infection
- Updated testing advice for residents who are considered contacts of a COVID infection
- A simplified contact definition
- Streamlined outbreak closures for all Acute Respiratory Infections (i.e. COVID, influenza, RSV etc).

We encourage you to share this resource with your networks.

New resources on the Code of Conduct

In Victoria, all disability workers must comply with the Disability Service Safeguards Code of Conduct. This Code is the same as the NDIS Code of Conduct, promoting consistency about quality safe standards for disability workers. The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission) has

released new educational videos about the NDIS Code of Conduct, helping everyone to understand the expected conduct, behaviour and culture of workers. You can access these videos that outline obligations under the Code here:

- <https://www.ndiscommission.gov.au/media-centre/new-video-campaign-promotes-ndis-code-conduct>
- <https://www.ndiscommission.gov.au/rules-and-standards/ndis-code-conduct/code-conduct-videos>

Safe care and standards for eating and drinking

There has been media coverage recently regarding a spike in food choking deaths in residential care. Safer Care Victoria have information on safe eating and drinking - <https://www.safercare.vic.gov.au/best-practice-improvement/clinical-guidance/older-people/safe-eating-and-drinking>

Another useful resource is the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission Quality Practice Guide on Dysphagia - <https://www.ndiscommission.gov.au/rules-and-standards/quality-practice#paragraph-id-8504>)

We encourage you to look at these resources and share them within your network.

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

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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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