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Message from the Acting Commissioner

Welcome to our first newsletter for the year! We're well and truly back in the swing of things for 2026.

This year the Commission and Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria will continue their important work regulating disability workers in Victoria. This means we'll keep advancing safer disability services and quality workforce standards, promoting the Code of Conduct, taking action against unsafe conduct, and registering disability workers in Australia's first disability worker registration scheme.

We were proud to sponsor the VALID Having a Say Conference as it celebrated its 25th anniversary.

This year's theme, 'Strengthening our voices for a better future,' was a powerful

reminder of the important role of disability advocacy and self advocacy, and what it means to speak up. It also reinforced the importance of having a regulator that people with disability know they can speak to with complaints and concerns when things aren't right.

We were delighted to see so many attendees visit our booth to learn more about our services. Conversations focused on feeling safe, supported, and empowered when working with disability services.

Another highlight was our workshop, 'How quality disability support helps you reach your goals,' with Jennifer Jackson-Hall, the Disability Services Commissioner. Together, we explored practical ways disability workers can support people to achieve their goals through person-centred care and goal setting. You'll find photos and more details from the conference below.

The Commission team, the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria and I look forward to working with you throughout 2026 as we continue building a safer, stronger disability sector in Victoria.

Kate Maddern, Acting Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner

Free CPD event for registered workers

Be registered as a disability worker to attend our **FREE EVENT**

- Boost your knowledge and skills
- Attendance counts towards your CPD



Registration applicants are eligible to attend



The Victorian Disability Worker Commission is hosting a free Continuing Professional Development event in March for registered disability workers and those that have applied for registration – so there is no better time to become registered! It is a free event to:

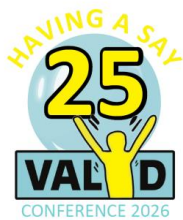
- Boost your knowledge and skills as a registered disability worker
- Count the learning towards your Continuing Professional Development requirements

The event will cover rights-based practice, delivering person-centred care and supporting disability worker wellbeing.

Registered workers and registration applicants will soon receive a direct invitation to the event.

Become a registered worker today to have access to Continuing Professional Development opportunities like this and more! Visit [Disability worker registration | Victorian Disability Worker Commission](#)

Out and about



Celebrating 25 years of VALID Having a Say Conference

We were proud to support the VALID conference once again as Australia's largest event for people with intellectual disability to have their voices heard.

This year's theme, 'Strengthening our voices for a better future,' set the tone for three inspiring days of discussion and collaboration.

Acting Commissioner Kate Maddern delivered the keynote speech about the right to good quality support and how it enables people with disability to participate fully in the community and achieve their goals. Kate also reinforced that if anyone receives poor-quality support, they should speak to us.

[Read More](#)

We ran a workshop on 'How quality disability support helps you reach your goals'

jointly with the Disability Services Commissioner. Attendees spoke about how their disability worker can assist in reaching their goals by:

- Listening to the person with disability to understand what they enjoy doing so they are not stuck doing the same thing
- Asking questions about their interests and what they would like to try as a new skill
- Asking about preferences but also what you don't like doing
- Supporting the person with disability by providing options and researching i.e. what activities are possible for someone who has an interest in animals or music?
- Who would you like to connect with as part of your interest i.e. a music group?





Image descriptions: Image 1 - Acting Commissioner Kate Maddern on stage giving the keynote speech. Image 2 - Commission staff smiling at the VDWC booth. Image 3 - Acting Commissioner Kate Maddern, Disability Services Commissioner Jennifer Jackson-Hall, and commission staff with participants during the 'How quality disability support helps you reach your goals' workshop.

New resources about your notification obligations

We have updated our resources about mandatory notifications for disability workers and service providers. Disability workers and employers must notify the Victorian Disability Worker Commission **as soon as practicable** if they form a reasonable belief that another disability worker has engaged in notifiable conduct.

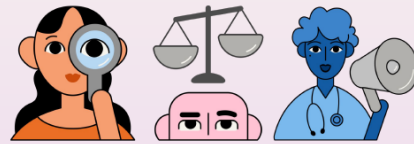
Please visit the [mandatory notifications](#) page on the VDWC website to access the following resources:

- Mandatory notifications: You must report unsafe conduct by disability workers - Fact sheet [PDF/Word](#)
- Guidance for disability workers: Mandatory notifications - [PDF/Word](#)
- Know your obligations: Report unsafe conduct by disability workers to VDWC - [PDF/Word](#)

For more information about your obligations contact our team via our [online form](#) or call 1800 497 132 between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Know My Rights

Enabling providers and their staff to empower NDIS participants.



Know it. Show it. Act on it.

NDIS Know My Rights – new free learning modules now available

The NDIS has launched Know My Rights, a free online learning platform for the NDIS community. The modules provide practical information about participant rights, provider responsibilities, and what to do if concerns or issues arise.

Developed with people with disability, families, carers and providers, the modules include guidance, examples and interactive AI scenarios to support understanding of rights within the NDIS and allow users to practise real-life situations in a safe and supported way.

The modules are now available and do not require sign up. Learn more at www.knowmyrights.org.au

What's on in the sector

Explore these free events across the disability sector:

Carers Vic - Developing an Emergency Care Plan for the Person you care for

Dates and time: 10 Feb 2026, 10.30am - 12.00pm

Location: Online

About: A free online session for carers.

For more info visit: [Developing an Emergency Care Plan \(for the person you care for\) - Carers Victoria](#)

The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) - Overview of Medical Treatment Decision Making

Date: 19 Feb 2026, 3:30pm - 4:00pm

Location: Online via Zoom

About: This 30-minute online session provides a brief overview of Medical Treatment Decision Making. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions.

For more info visit: [Overview of Medical Treatment Decision Making - February 19th 2026. - Office of the Public Advocate](#)

Impact Institute - South East Melbourne Disability Expo

Dates and times: 27–28 Mar 2026, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Location: Cranbourne Racing Centre, Cranbourne VIC

About: Part of the “My Future, My Choice” expo series connecting NDIS participants with service providers.

For more info visit: [Home - South East Melbourne Disability Expo](#)

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