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Message from the Acting Commissioner

Welcome to the March issue of our eNewsletter.

In my role, I'm really lucky to meet people in the disability community to talk about what we do and how we support the sector by:

- regulating disability workers providing services to people with disability in Victoria to minimise harm,
- increasing the quality of disability services provided by workers, and
- supporting service users to choose high quality, safe workers.

We are here to support and respond to worker conduct issues in Victoria and provide a crucial safeguarding role for people with disability.

As part of supporting a quality disability workforce, the Commission is hosting a range of free learning and development opportunities over coming months.

If you are a registered disability worker or have applied recently, our Continuing

Professional Development event (CPD) on 25 March, provides a fantastic opportunity to further your knowledge and skills and meet your CPD requirements. If you aren't a registered disability worker I encourage you to apply for registration which is free and you can attend this event.

We are also conducting a free webinar series on the Disability Service Safeguards Code of Conduct providing real life examples to assist disability workers to comply with the Code. The Code sets out the legal requirements that all disability workers in Victoria must follow in their everyday work – no matter who pays for their services. Webinars are being held on 28 April, 26 May and 23 June. Read our newsletter to find out more.

I look forward to working together with you to ensure safer services, quality workforce standards and better choices for people with disability.

Kate Maddern, Acting Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner



The Victorian Disability Worker Commission is offering a range of free learning opportunities for disability workers in the coming months. Boost your knowledge and skills and count the learning towards your CPD!

Continuing Professional Development event



Open to registered disability workers and registration applicants

This event is available to registered disability workers and those with a registration application in process. **Please note:** NDIS registration alone does not make you eligible. You must be registered with us or have a registration application in progress to attend.

Join us to learn about:

- rights-based practice
- delivering person-centered care
- supporting disability worker wellbeing.

Attendees will get to hear about important topics from expert presenters, including:

- Preventing Everyday Harms project: presented by Professor Sally Robinson – Disability and Community Inclusion at Flinders University, and Ruby Nankivell – Community Researcher at Flinders University.
- Quality of Life project: presented by Janice O'Connor – Onemda.
- Raising concerns, handling feedback and achieving better outcomes: presented by Jennifer Jackson-Hall, Disability Services Commissioner.

This is a hybrid event with options for in-person or online attendance.

- Date: Wednesday, 25 March 2026
- Location: Telstra Theatre Lonsdale Street, Melbourne CBD and online
- Time: 10am-12pm (1pm finish for in-person attendees to include lunch and networking)

[Sign me up!](#)

Code of Conduct webinars



Open to all disability workers

We are hosting a series of webinars on the Disability Service Safeguards Code of Conduct for all disability workers.

The Code of Conduct sets out how you must provide safe, quality services to people with disability — no matter who pays for their services. Our webinars will help you understand how to apply the Code of Conduct in your everyday work.

- 28 April – Element 3: Providing supports and services in a safe and competent manner, with care and skill.

- 26 May – Element 5: Promptly take steps to raise and act on concerns about matters that may impact the quality and safety of supports and services provided to people with disability.
- 23 June – Element 6: Taking all reasonable steps to prevent abuse, violence, harm, exploitation and neglect of people with disabilities.

This is a great opportunity to [learn more about the Code of Conduct](#) and your legal requirements as a disability worker.

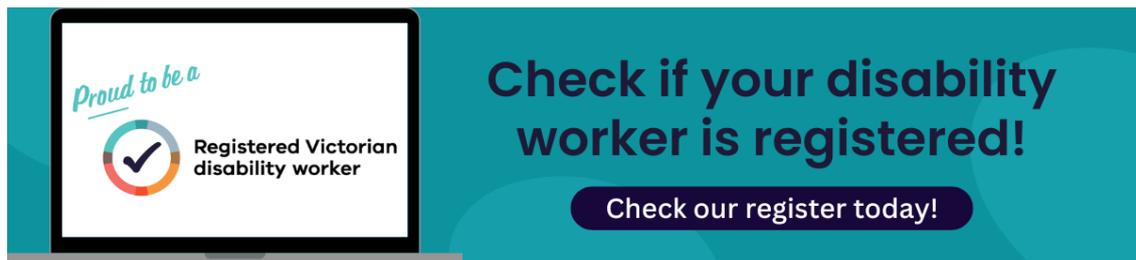
[Sign me up!](#)

Learn about restrictive practice and environmental restraint

The Victorian Senior Practitioner has developed an animation to support disability workers and service providers in understanding the use and authorisation of environmental restraint.

Environmental restraint is a restrictive practice that limits a person's free access to all parts of their environment, including specific items, areas, or activities. Environmental restraints can sometimes be hard to identify, so it is important to know what they are.

The animation is now available on the [Victorian Senior Practitioner webpage](#).

A banner with a teal background. On the left, a laptop screen displays the text "Proud to be a" in a script font above a circular logo with a checkmark and the text "Registered Victorian disability worker". To the right of the laptop, the text "Check if your disability worker is registered!" is written in a large, bold, dark font. Below this text is a dark blue button with the white text "Check our register today!".

Check if your disability worker is registered!

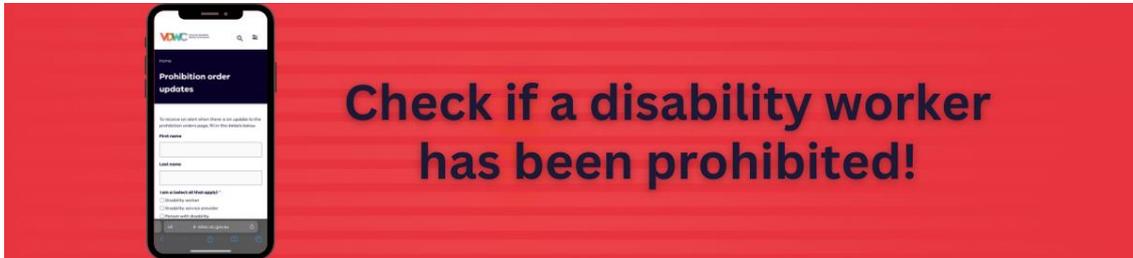
Check our register today!

Want to know if a disability worker is a Victorian registered disability worker?

Victorian registered disability workers show they are safe, skilled and professional. In Victoria, disability workers can voluntarily sign up to professional registration. The Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria is responsible for assessing skills, experience and suitability for registration and registering disability workers that meet set standards for registration.

To check if a worker is registered [visit and search our register](#).

For more information on disability worker registration or to register for free, [head to our disability worker registration webpage](#).



Have you subscribed to our prohibition order alerts?

The Commissioner can issue prohibition orders to stop unregistered disability workers from practising if it's necessary to avoid a serious risk to the life, health, safety or welfare of people with disability or the broader public. These orders can stop them from working as disability workers or limit them to work only under specific conditions.

Prohibition orders are public to support public safety and are published on the Commission's website.

We take these orders seriously. Any worker who ignores a prohibition order and continues to work is breaking the law - and we do prosecute.

Make sure you stay informed by signing up to receive alerts directly to your inbox when we update our public prohibition orders page.

For more information, to sign-up to receive an alert, or to check if a disability worker has been prohibited, [visit our Prohibition Orders webpage](#).

What's on in the sector

Explore these free events across the disability sector:

Maryborough Disability Expo

- Date and time: Thursday, 19 March, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Location: 12-22 Nolan Street, Maryborough
- About: A welcoming community event connecting people with disability, families, and local support services.

- For more information, [visit the Maryborough Disability Expo Eventbrite page.](#)

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 information, [visit the South East Melbourne Disability Expo webpage.](#)

Source Kids – Source Kids Disability Expo – Melbourne

- Dates and times: 17–18 April 2026, 10:00am–4:00pm
- Location: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre
- About: A disability expo featuring 150+ exhibitors, sensory zones, entertainment, assistive technology, NDIS plan assistance, support organisations, peak bodies, therapy providers, and supports for children and young people with disability.
- For more information, [visit the Source Kids Melbourne Expo webpage.](#)

Have an event you'd like us to promote? Send us an email at info@vdwc.vic.gov.au

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