



In this month's edition:

- [Message from the Acting Commissioner](#)
- [Code of Conduct webinars for disability workers](#)
- [Recruitment underway: Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner](#)
- [Real skills deserve real recognition](#)
- [Mandatory notifications: know your obligations](#)
- [Sector news](#)
- [Sector events](#)

Message from the Acting Commissioner

Welcome to the May issue of our eNewsletter.

It was fantastic to see over 100 people join our free Code of Conduct webinar in April. The topic was providing supports and services in a safe and competent manner, with care and skill. The webinar featured real-life scenarios to help disability workers understand and apply the Code of Conduct in their daily practice. More sessions about Code of Conduct obligations will run on 26 May and 23 June, so I encourage you to sign up early. Read our newsletter to find out more.

Across the broader disability sector, regulatory reform continues. At the federal level, the *NDIS Amendment (Integrity and Safeguarding) Act 2026* has passed, which strengthens the powers of the NDIS Quality and Safety Commission to take

regulatory action about NDIS matters. On 22 April the Australian Government announced significant reforms to the NDIS. The reforms focus on four pillars: fighting fraud and stopping rorts, slowing rapid cost increases, clearer eligibility requirements and delivering quality services and support to participants. More information about these changes is available at [Securing the NDIS for future generations](#).

At the Commission, we continue our work regulating Victorian disability workers, and we continue to work with State federal agencies in delivering our safeguarding functions.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the Governor-In-Council has appointed me again as Acting Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner. Recruitment is underway for the permanent role of Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner. I'm really excited to be able to continue this role leading the work of the Commission in building a stronger, safer disability sector.

Kate Maddern, Acting Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner

Code of Conduct webinars for disability workers

Understand your responsibilities to provide safe, quality services



We're hosting more free webinars on elements of the Code of Conduct. The webinars will help disability workers understand and apply the Disability Service Safeguards Code of Conduct, which all disability workers must comply with, no matter who funds these services.

Upcoming free online webinars:

- 26 May – 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 (Element 5).
- 23 June – Taking all reasonable steps to prevent abuse, violence, harm, exploitation and neglect of people with disabilities (Element 6).

[Sign me up!](#)

Count it towards your Continuing Professional Development (CPD)!

If you're a registered disability worker, these webinars can count towards your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements — while building your understanding of the [Code of Conduct](#).

You can also explore our [Training and Development Catalogue](#), which brings together training and development opportunities from a range of providers to support you in meeting your CPD requirements.

Recruitment underway: Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner

Recruitment of the Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner position is currently underway.

The role is seeking a senior leader with experience in regulation, investigations, complaints handling, compliance or safeguarding, and who is motivated by the opportunity to strengthen safety, trust and accountability in disability services and to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of people with disability across Victoria.

For further information see [VICTORIAN DISABILITY WORKER COMMISSIONER job in Government & Public Sector in Melbourne](#). Applications close 24 May 2026.



Australian Government

REAL SKILLS DESERVE REAL RECOGNITION

Find out more at yourcareer.gov.au/VETIntegrity

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) helps transform the skills you've gained through work and life experiences into a formal qualification, but not all training providers are genuine.

Genuine RPL is a structured process requiring consultation, evidence collection and practical assessment. It's thorough but worth it, as you can fast-track your qualifications and open doors to new opportunities.

The Australian Government has released new resources to help students, employers and industry understand what genuine RPL looks like and how to spot non-genuine training providers.

Be wary of training providers making unrealistic promises and shortcuts. Learn how to find a genuine VET provider by visiting the [Your Career website](#).

For information about how the Commission responds to action taken by the Australian Skills and Quality Authority (ASQA) against non-genuine training providers, [read our statement on our website](#). If ASQA cancels qualifications from training providers, the Commission will contact any registered disability workers who have relied on this cancelled qualification from this provider to qualify for disability worker registration, and assess whether they still qualify for registration.

Mandatory notifications: know your obligations

Disability workers and their employers are required under law to report conduct by disability workers that may put the people they support at risk. This is called a mandatory notification, which must be made to the Commission. The types of conduct that must be notified are when a disability worker has:

- been intoxicated by alcohol or drugs while working
- engaged in sexual misconduct
- placed, or may place, the public at risk due to an impairment that has, or is likely to, affect their ability to practice
- placed the public at risk of harm because of a significant departure from accepted professional standards.

Disability workers and employers must notify the Victorian Disability Worker Commission as soon as practicable when a disability worker has engaged in notifiable conduct.

The simplest way to make a notification is through [visiting our notifications webpage](#) or by calling 1800 497 132 between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

To support you to comply with your legal obligations when reporting notifiable conduct, we have developed updated 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](#)

Sector news

Have your say on the next State Disability Plan and the next Victorian Autism Plan!

The Victorian Government is developing the next State Disability Plan and Victorian Autism Plan and is inviting feedback from people with disability, Autistic

people, families, carers, allies and advocates.

You can share your views by:

- joining a face-to-face workshop or online forum
- completing an online survey
- contributing on Engage Victoria
- sending a voice or video recording to disabilityplan@dffh.vic.gov.au
- mailing a picture, document or recording with your ideas to Office for Disability, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000.

Although consultation is running together, the State Disability Plan and Victorian Autism Plan are separate. Find out more and get involved via the [Engage Victoria disability plan page](#).

Sector events

Explore these free events across the disability sector:

From Ableism to Allyship - Bendigo & Surrounds Inclusive Community Forum

- Date and time: Monday, May 18 10:00 am -10:30am
- Location: Larnangurrak (Our Place), Golden Square
- About: The event will feature a keynote address from author and advocate Sam Drummond, a panel discussion featuring local people with disabilities, and workshops.
- For more info, [visit the From Ableism to Allyship - Bendigo & Surrounds Inclusive Community Forum event page](#).

Frankston Community Disability Expo

- Date and time: Wednesday, 27 May, 10:00 am -1:00 pm
- Location: Frankston Arts Centre
- About: This free community event is designed to connect people living with disabilities, their families, guardians, support workers and disability providers.

- For more info, [visit the Frankston Community Disability Expo webpage.](#)

CFA - Free online Home Fire Safety event for the Care Sector

- Date and time: Wed, 27 May 2026, 3:30PM
- Location: Online event
- About: CFA and FRV are hosting an online event for Disability and Aged Care Service Providers and workers to support the care sector with essential home fire safety information.
- For more info, [visit the CFA event webpage to register.](#)

Aged & Disability Expo Bendigo

- Date and time: Tuesday, June 16, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Location: Red Energy Arena Bendigo
- About: A regional expo for families and individuals to discover local resources, products, and support networks.
- For more info, [visit the Aged & Disability Expo Bendigo event page.](#)

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

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





Our mailing address is:

Level 1, 2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).