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**Message from the Acting Commissioner**

Welcome to the June issue of our eNewsletter.

It's great to see strong interest in our free Code of Conduct webinar series, with more than 200 people joining live for each of our April and May sessions. Disability workers have told us they value learning more about the Code and strengthening their understanding of their obligations. Many participants say they feel increased confidence in applying the Code in their work, and find the webinars clear, concise and valuable.

We have another Code of Conduct webinar coming up on 23 June, so I encourage you to sign up early. Read our newsletter to find out more.

I recently attended the National Disability Services (NDS) Insights to Action Victorian Conference on 26 May, which was a great opportunity to speak with Victorian disability service providers. I talked about how the Commission supports disability

service providers and disability workers to comply with their obligations, how we work with co-regulators to help issues get where they need to go and reduce the burden on those with issues of concern. You can read more about our involvement in the [Out and About](#) section.

I'm also pleased to be participating in VALID's Advocacy in Action conference on 23 June, which will explore regulation, safeguarding and advocacy by and for people with disability. We hope to see you there.

**Kate Maddern, Acting Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner**

## Code of Conduct webinars for disability workers

Understand your responsibilities to provide safe, quality services



Don't miss our free webinar on element 6 of the Code of Conduct on 23 June at 10am.

This session covers 'Taking all reasonable steps to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against, and exploitation, neglect and abuse of people with disabilities.'

The webinar 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.

[Sign me up!](#)

**Count it towards your Continuing Professional Development (CPD)!**

If you're a registered disability worker, this webinar 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.

## **Out and about**

### **NDS Insights to Action Conference**

Acting Commissioner Kate Maddern and VDWC staff attended the NDS Insights to Action Conference on 26 May, where we connected with disability sector colleagues from across Victoria.

At our exhibition booth, we engaged with service providers, shared information about the Disability Worker Regulation Scheme and how it promotes a safer, stronger disability sector in Victoria, and discussed how the Commission continues to support providers in meeting their obligations.

It was a great opportunity to connect with stakeholders, listen to their concerns, and continue strengthening our relationships across the sector.

If you're interested in having our team attend a disability sector event to provide information on our work, please let us know at [info@vdbc.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@vdbc.vic.gov.au)



Image description: Image 1 - VDWC manager Marie Dalins and Acting Commissioner Kate Maddern at the VDWC booth during the NDS Insights to Action Conference. Image 2 - Acting Commissioner Kate Maddern and Fiona Still from National Disability Services at the NDS Insights to Action Conference.

## Sector news

### Nominate today – 2026 Victorian Disability Awards

The Victorian Government is calling for nominations for the 2026 Victorian Disability Awards, celebrating people and organisations making Victoria more inclusive.

The awards recognise a person, group and organisation who champion disability rights, demonstrate best practice policy delivery and advocacy, act as community role models in their own communities and across Victoria, and promote disability pride.

Eligible nominees include a person with disability, family members, volunteers, disability sector workers, and organisations that provide programs, advocacy or services.

Take the time to nominate a person or a group who are making a real difference.

Nominations are open until 5 pm, Friday 26 June 2026. The nomination period will not be extended. For award categories and to nominate, [visit the Victorian Disability Awards webpage](#).

### **Mandatory NDIS provider registration for Supported Independent Living and platform providers from 1 July 2026**

The Australian Government announced late last year that mandatory provider registration for Supported Independent Living (SIL) providers and platform providers delivering NDIS-funded services will commence from 1 July 2026. All providers delivering these NDIS-funded supports will be required to register with the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission and meet high quality standards, including independent audits, suitability assessments, reporting requirements and worker screening checks.

SIL providers deliver in-home supports to help people with disability live as independently as possible, often in shared accommodation. Supports may include personal care and daily living tasks such as showering, dressing, cooking and cleaning. These changes will be introduced alongside new SIL-specific Practice Standards to strengthen quality, safety and workforce capability, following extensive consultation and recommendations from the NDIS Review, the Disability Royal Commission and the NDIS Provider and Worker Registration Taskforce. Visit the [NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission media release to learn more](#).

### **If you have concerns about a disability worker you can tell us**

The Victorian Disability Worker Commission can deal with your concerns about a disability worker's behaviour or quality of their work. Our complaints service is free, confidential, and we can take action if something isn't right.

Each year, people from around Victoria reach out to us with complaints, and many more speak to us for information and advice.

It's important that people with disability feel safe with their disability worker and sharing a concern or making a complaint can help improve the standard of disability workers and quality of care for everyone.

Most disability workers are highly committed and provide excellent care to people with disability. However, we know there are times when people will have concerns and even when people with disability can be harmed. So if you have any concerns about a disability worker, our team is here to listen, help and guide you as we understand it can be difficult to take the step of contacting us.

The Commission's team can deal with complaints about any disability worker in Victoria, regardless of how they are funded or how the disability worker is employed.

The Commission team can be contacted about a concern or complaint by calling us on 1800 497 132 between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday, meet us face to face or submit a complaint via [our website](#).

## Sector events

Explore these free events across the disability sector:

### **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](#).

### **Aged & Disability Expo Melbourne**

- Date and time: Friday, 19 and Saturday 20 June 2026, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Location: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
- About: This event showcases the latest products, services, and technologies designed to empower individuals with disabilities and seniors.
- For more info, [visit the Aged & Disability Expo Melbourne event page](#).

### **Disability Pride Celebration 2026 Melbourne**

- Date and time: Friday, July 31, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- Location: Fringe Common Rooms - Victoria Street, Carlton, Australia

- About: Celebrate Disability Pride Month with an inclusive community event featuring performances, activities and opportunities for connection, hosted by the Disability Resources Centre.
- For more info, [visit the Disability Pride Celebration 2026 event page.](#)

Have an event you'd like us to promote? Send us an email at [info@vdwc.vic.gov.au](mailto: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](https://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](mailto:info@vdwc.vic.gov.au) or call us on 1800 497 132.

For more information visit [vdwc.vic.gov.au](https://vdwc.vic.gov.au)



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### Our mailing address is:

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