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Message from the Acting Commissioner

Welcome to the September issue of our eNewsletter.

Firstly, I want to thank everyone that has renewed their disability worker registration for 2026-27. Seeing so many workers renew their registration reflects a commitment from people across the sector to their profession, including to engage in ongoing professional development as part of registration. For those who haven't applied to renew yet, you have until 30 September 2026. I encourage you to let your colleagues know about disability worker registration and remind them to become registered or renew if they haven't already.

Following the success of our recent Code of Conduct webinar series, [now available to watch in full online](#), we are pleased to offer more free learning and development opportunities over the coming months. Our upcoming session on 26 November 2026 brings real-life scenarios to life, helping disability workers understand and apply the Code of Conduct in their everyday work, and I recommend registering early.

On 22 August, I was delighted to join the Victorian Multicultural Commission at the 2026 Premier's Multicultural Gala Dinner. This year's theme, 'Stories of Us,' was a powerful reminder of how our diverse backgrounds and unique experiences contribute directly to a more inclusive, and culturally safe community. We see this theme reflected in our disability sector workforce.

A core part of our work at the Commission is taking action to prevent unsafe disability worker conduct. As Commissioner, I can issue Prohibition Orders to stop unregistered disability workers practising. We have had recent updates to the [Prohibition Orders page on our website](#) and we send out email alert notifications whenever our site is updated. I encourage all service providers and disability workers to regularly check this register and sign-up for our alerts to ensure we are working together to protect people with disability in Victoria.

Finally, a reminder that applications for the Victorian Government's \$3,500 regional disability worker scholarships close on 15 September. This is a fantastic opportunity for regional or rural disability students to complete a work placement and gain experience. To find out more and apply, read along below.

Kate Maddern, Acting Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner

Code of Conduct webinars for disability workers

Understand your responsibilities to provide
safe quality services and boost your skills



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

The Code of Conduct sets out how disability workers must provide safe, quality services to people with disability - no matter who funds the services. All disability workers must comply with the Code of Conduct.

Our webinars will help disability workers understand how to apply the Code in their everyday work. We are hosting four webinars on the dates and topics listed below and you only need to register once to access all the webinars.

- 26 November 2026 - Act with respect for individual rights to freedom of expression, self-determination, and decision-making in accordance with applicable laws and conventions (Element 1).
- 23 February 2027- Respect the privacy of people with disability (Element 2).
- 28 April 2027- Act with integrity, honesty, and transparency (Element 4).
- 25 May 2027- Take all reasonable steps to prevent and respond to sexual misconduct (Element 7).

Our free webinar series is a great opportunity to [learn more about the Code of Conduct](#) and the legal requirements for disability workers. Registered disability workers can count their attendance at the webinars towards their continuing professional development requirements.

[Sign me up!](#)

Sector news

Regional disability worker scholarships – round 3 applications closing soon

Applications for the Victorian Government’s \$3,500 regional disability worker scholarships are closing on Tuesday, 15 September 2026.

This funding supports students in regional Victoria completing a Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability) or a Certificate IV in Disability Support with the costs of their studies including unpaid work placement as part of their course. Students completing the dual Ageing and Disability specialisation of the Certificate III in Individual Support may also be eligible.

For more information and to see if you are eligible [visit the regional disability worker scholarships government webpage](#).

Help shape the future of disability care qualifications

HumanAbility wants to hear from the disability sector about how to improve qualifications for care, leisure and lifestyle workers. HumanAbility is reviewing key qualifications across the aged care and disability sector so that they meet new and emerging industry needs, regulatory requirements and safety and wellbeing outcomes.

Your feedback will help make sure future workers have the skills they need to deliver quality, person-centred care.

Consultation workshops will be held in person and online from 31 August to 19 October. [Register for a consultation workshop](#).

Career opportunities for Victorians with disability in Geelong

Four major employers – the Transport Accident Commission, WorkSafe Victoria, the National Disability Insurance Agency and Barwon Health – have signed the Geelong Inclusive Employment Compact to boost regional job opportunities for people with disability.

Led by the Gordon Centre of Excellence in Disability Inclusion, the four foundation partners together with Gordon TAFE will work to build stronger pathways from training into employment.

Activities the partners will work on include:

- improving inclusive recruitment
- job design
- onboarding and early employment support
- workplace adjustments
- student transition pathways.

Ideas and models generated through the compact can be used by TAFEs and industry across Victoria.

To learn more, [visit The Gordon Centre of Excellence in Disability and Inclusion website](#).

Paid Opportunity: Shape the Future of NDIS Planning

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is inviting NDIS participants aged 18 and over, alongside authorised plan nominees, to test its '[New Way of Planning](#)' before it begins rolling out from April 2027.

Participants will receive \$200 for participating in simulated assessments and providing feedback. The NDIA will also arrange and fund any reasonable supports required to enable participation, such as interpreters, live captioning or support workers. Involvement is entirely voluntary and will not impact current or future NDIS plans, funding, or eligibility.

To register your interest:

- [Read the Participant Information Pack \(available in PDF, Word and Easy Read formats\) on the NDIS Engage website](#)
- Select "Express your Interest" and complete the Expression of Interest form.
- When asked "How did you hear about this opportunity?", select "A community group or organisation" and enter "Victorian Disability Worker Commission."

For registration assistance, call the NDIA on 1300 790 467.

Sector events

Explore these free events across the disability sector:

Deaf Art Science Festival

- Date and time: Saturday, 19 September, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Location: Science Gallery Melbourne, Parkville VIC
- About: This event has been co-designed with members of the Deaf community including students and professionals and will be a day of exploration and learning at the University of Melbourne's Science Gallery.

- For more info and to register, [visit the Deaf Art Science Festival Humanitix page](#).

Advance Your Advocacy Practice: Mental Health Units

- Date and time: Wednesday, 23 September, 10:00 am to 11:00 am
- Location: Online via Zoom webinar
- About: Enhance your advocacy skills in this free session focused on supporting people with psychosocial disabilities or mental health issues in mental health units. Presented by the Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU) and the Mental Health Legal Centre.
- For more info, [visit the Advance Your Advocacy Practice event page](#)

DFFH Emergency Preparedness and Engagement Forum

- Date and time: Wednesday, 7 October, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Location: Online
- About: Hosted by the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), this free online forum connects sector workers directly with emergency management professionals to share practical safety strategies, with full Auslan interpreting and live captioning provided.
- For more info, [visit the DFFH Funded Agency Channel](#) for the upcoming registration link, or email EMforum@dffh.vic.gov.au.

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

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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@vdbc.vic.gov.au or call us on 1800 497 132.

For more information visit vdbc.vic.gov.au



Our mailing address is:

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The Victorian Disability Worker Commission acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and acknowledges and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.