

Update from the Commissioner

Welcome to our May newsletter.

First, a big thank you to everyone that completed our Annual Sector Survey. We had a fantastic response to it and importantly the findings will help us identify what people with disability, their families and carers, disability workers and service providers need from us to better understand our role. We will be publishing key findings in our annual report, sharing at meetings and other communications with the sector.

I am looking forward to heading to Inner Gippsland next week for the next round of our public forums. It is a free event where you can learn more about the Commission and our services. We are visiting three towns across two days, so if you are in the area, I encourage you to come along. Details on the events and how to register are below.

Upcoming events



Inner Gippsland public forums

We are looking forward to visiting Inner Gippsland to host the next round of our public forums. Join us in:

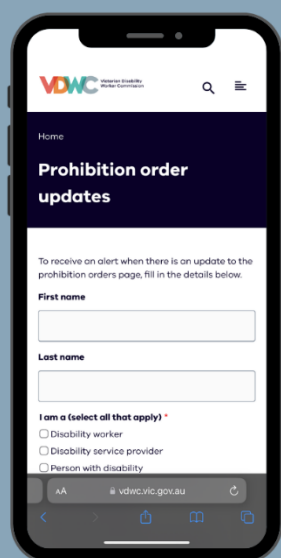
- Warragul - 4 June
- Traralgon - 4 June
- Leongatha - 5 June

Commissioner Dan Stubbs will provide attendees with information on our different functions: the code of conduct for disability workers; complaints and notifications about disability workers, and disability worker registration. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

Victorian Disability Services Commissioner Jen Jackson-Hall will also join us at the Warragul and Traralgon forums on 4 June to explain the role of the DSC and their regulation of non-NDIS service providers.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register for your free ticket.

For the disability workforce



PROHIBITION ORDERS

Sign up for updates online

vdbc.vic.gov.au/prohibition-order-updates

Prohibition Orders

The Commissioner has the power to issue prohibition orders for unregistered disability workers to avoid serious risk to the life, health, safety or welfare of a person with disability or of the public. In some cases, the disability worker may only be able to practice if certain conditions are met.

You can [sign up](#) to receive direct email alerts when there is an update to the public prohibition orders page of the Commission website.

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

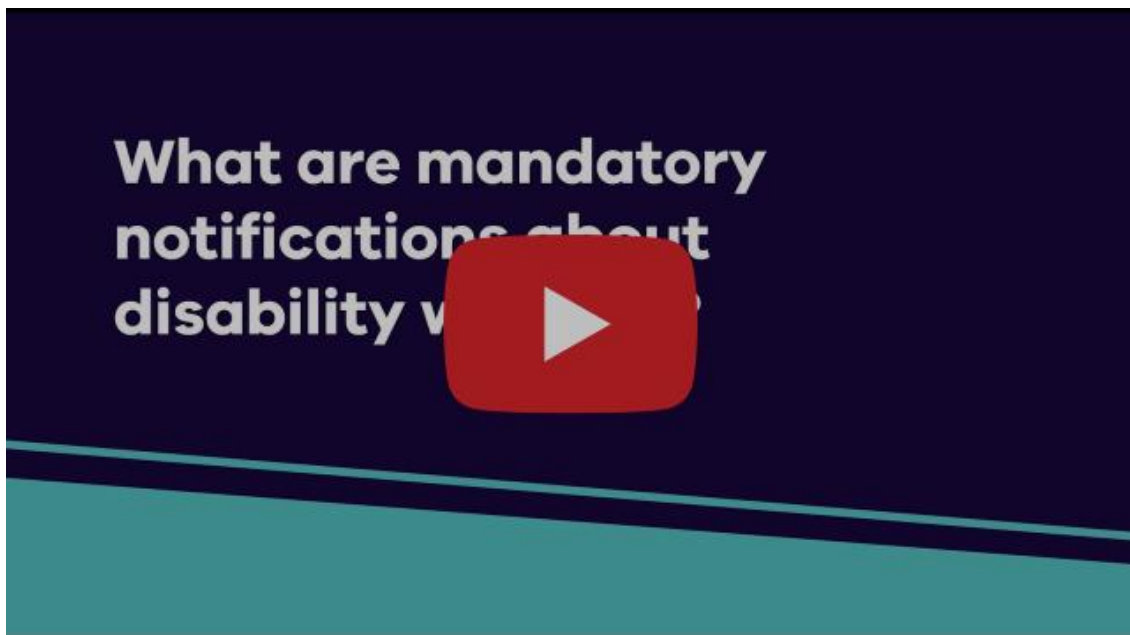
Notifications

With many changes happening across the disability sector, we want you to know that the VDWC is the place to go if you have a concern about any Victorian disability worker.

Under the [Disability Service Safeguards Act 2018 \(Vic\)](#), disability workers or employers must tell us about a concern that a disability worker may be putting safety at risk, this is called a 'notification'.

If you are not sure about making a notification to the Commission, below is a 90 second video that'll help you understand what a notification is and when to tell us about certain types of misconduct.

For more information about our notifications visit <https://www.vdwc.vic.gov.au/notifications>



DARU (Disability Advocacy Resource Unit) Frontline Briefing

Commissioner Dan Stubbs presented to frontline disability advocates in partnership with DARU on 22 May. This presentation covered what issues and trends we are seeing in the sector and was a great opportunity to hear from advocates about what they are seeing and how we can continue to work together and increase safety and participation for people with disability. We very much look forward to hearing more from disability advocacy workers from around Victoria now.

If you or your organisation would like someone from VDWC to present or meet with your staff or members, please just get in contact at: education@vdwc.vic.gov.au and we'll make that happen.

NDIS Provider and Worker Registration Taskforce

Over the last few months, the NDIS Provider and Worker Registration Taskforce (the Taskforce) has been in consultation with the disability community to provide advice on the design and implementation of the new graduated risk-proportionate regulatory model proposed in the [NDIS Review Final Report](#) (the Report).

The Victorian Disability Worker Commission and the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria were pleased to meet with the NDIS Provider and Worker Registration Taskforce earlier this year and be given the opportunity to provide input into a national registration scheme given our uniqueness as the only regulator of its kind across Australia.

With the consultation phase coming to an end, the Taskforce recently held a webinar on "What we have heard" from people with disability, disability service providers, sole traders, peak bodies and other community groups.

With many important topics and issues raised, the Taskforce will provide the Federal Minister with a report later this year setting out advice on:

- The design and implementation of the graduated risk-proportionate regulatory model;
- A Provider Risk Framework; and
- Arrangements for platform providers and circumstances where participants directly employ their workers.

[Click here](#) to read more information on the NDIS Provider and Worker Registration Taskforce.

Statement on 60 Minutes episode

The Victorian Disability Worker Commission received enquiries about whether it has taken action about the disability workers who were the subject of a 60 minutes episode that aired on Sunday 14 April 2024

[Click here to read our statement.](#)

Resources

New website from Women With Disabilities Australia - Neve



Women With Disabilities Australia (WWDA) have launched a new website called Neve. Co-designed by women, girls, feminine identifying and non-binary people with disabilities, it is a safe, accessible space to explore shared experiences.

For more info visit neve.wwda.org.au

What's been happening

IMPACT 2024 Annual Conference

Representatives from the VDWC attended the IMPACT 2024 Annual Conference hosted by the Australian Disability Network in May. The conference highlighted the importance of accessibility as a fundamental human right and the benefits of diverse employee behaviours in high performance hiring. Discussions spanned inclusive workplace practices, such as representation, goal-setting and digital accessibility.

Our Senior IT Officer Primal Fernando was a guest speaker and took part in a deep dive session which focused on workplace adjustments and firsthand experiences from employer and employee perspectives.



Image description

VDWC Senior IT Officer Primal Fernando sitting onstage during panel discussion with two other panel members.

Enhancing Investigations & Enforcement Outcomes Conference

Commissioner Dan Stubbs headed to Canberra on June 28 to attend the Enhancing Investigations and Enforcement Outcomes Conference and deliver a keynote speech on the VDWC's journey as the first regulator of its kind in Australia.

The three main takeaways Dan left the conference with were:

1. **Organisational culture really matters for building a successful regulator:** If you get the culture of your regulator right, you're more than halfway there. This means having shared values, a positive approach to the big outcomes you're trying to achieve, constructive collaboration across the organisation and monitoring success and learning how to improve.
2. **Engage with the sector you regulate and the communities you regulate for:** At the Commission we started by building **Awareness** of our role and purpose. Then we engaged more deeply to ensure the disability community and workforce **Understand** what we do, i.e. our regulatory functions. And ultimately this engagement helps toward

building **Trust** in the Commission by the disability community and sector.

3. **Co-Regulate actively and collaboratively:** As a regulator operating with overlapping jurisdictions, it's appropriate to see this as an opportunity to work with other regulators and not see it as a challenge or complexity. We take up the challenge by building working relationships with people in sister regulators between regulatory operations staff at the right levels. It is important to open up communication to build understanding of each other.



Image description

Vdwc Commissioner Dan Stubbs standing behind a lectern delivering the keynote speech at the Enhancing Investigations and Enforcement Outcomes Conference.

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