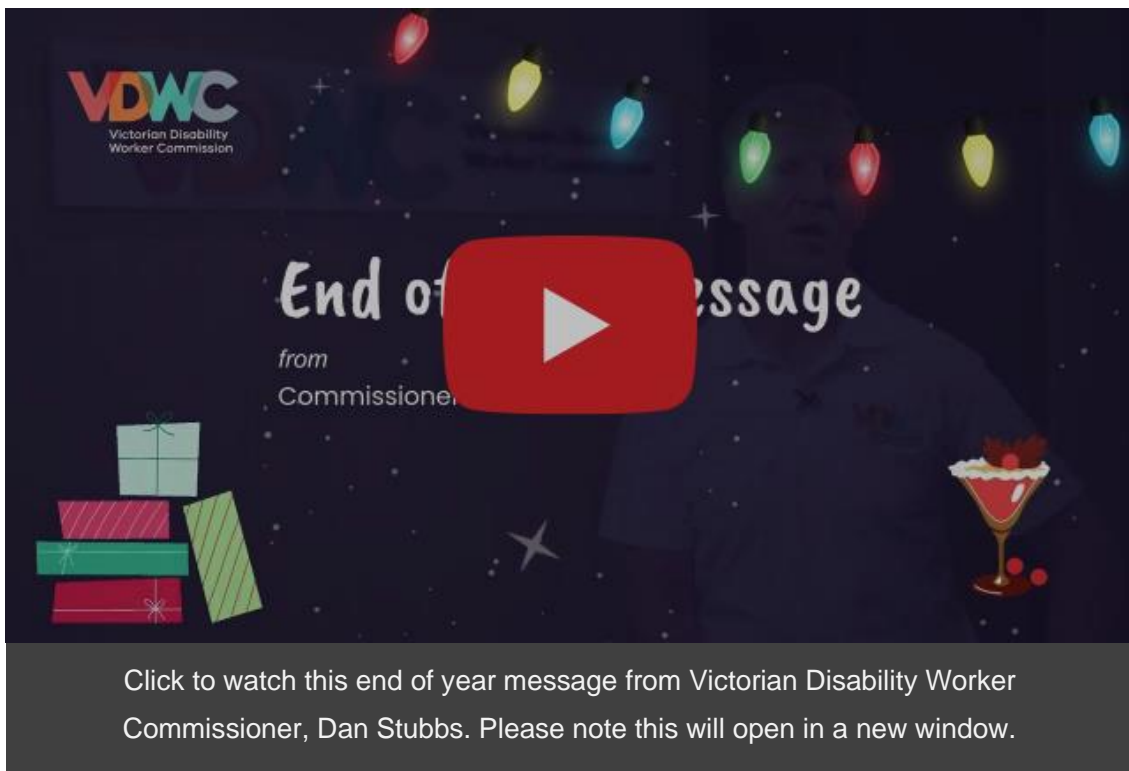


Update from the Commissioner

Thank you to everyone who joined us or contacted us throughout the year to contribute to a safer, stronger disability sector. I look forward to working with you in 2025.

I'm so pleased to remind us all of the highlights of 2024 and wish you a happy festive season in my short end of year video here:



If you have trouble accessing the video please click
<https://youtu.be/EOtQZxeCWMY?si=ROiy91VGktJWU3Ce>

Looking ahead to next year, we look forward to more engagement with the community, starting with the VALID Having a Say Conference at the end of January - I hope to see many of you there! We also have plans to continue our roadshows across regional Victoria, to hear directly from communities, ensure they are aware of our work and to increase the safety and quality of disability services across Victoria.

Commission opening hours over the festive season

The Commission will be closed from **Wednesday 25 December 2024** and will reopen on **Thursday 2 January 2025**.

If you have a complaint or a query about registration, please leave a message on our phone line 1800 497 132 or email the Complaints team at complaints@vdwc.vic.gov.au or the Registration team at registration@vdwc.vic.gov.au during this time.

These messages and emails will be checked regularly and the Commission will get back to you as soon as possible after 2 January 2025.

Update on cancellations by ASQA of Registered Training Providers

The Australian Skills and Quality Authority (ASQA) has taken action to cancel the registration of certain Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) providing disability or social support qualifications, affecting some disability workers across Australia.

Please see our [public statement](#) which includes links to information available.

Out and about

As part of our mission to raise awareness of the Disability Worker Regulation Scheme and inform disability workers of their obligations for safe, quality disability services, Commissioner Dan Stubbs has been out and about engaging with disability workers and people with disability across Victoria.

We rounded out the year with two big events, the Melbourne Disability Expo and our Bendigo Public forum. We were thrilled to meet so many people at both events. It was a fantastic opportunity to share information, experiences and answer questions about our functions, particularly disability worker registration, our complaints service and mandatory notification obligations.

The Commissioner also participated in DARU's recent Strengthening Disability Conference and featured in a video on ['What advice would you give to new advocates?'](#).



Image 1: This image shows VDWC staff standing at the Commission's booth at the Melbourne Disability Expo.



Image 2: This image shows the Commission presenting to the audience at its public forum held at the Bendigo Bank Theatre.

What's on in the sector

[VALID Having a Say Conference 2025](#)

The Victorian Disability Worker Commission is proud to be participating in and sponsoring the VALID Having a Say Conference once again in 2025. Commissioner Dan Stubbs will be presenting the key note speech and we will be exhibiting and be running a

workshop. We look forward to meeting and chatting with people from right across the disability sector. We look forward to seeing you there.

Dates and times:

- Tuesday 28th January 10.30am to 4.00pm
- Wednesday 29th January 9.30am to 4.00pm
- Thursday 30th January 9.30am to 1.00pm

Venue: Costa Hall, Deakin University, Waterfront Campus, Gheringhap Street, Geelong.

For more info visit valid.org.au/having-a-say/

New Regional disability worker scholarships – applications close this week!

Applications for the Victorian Government's new Regional Disability Worker Scholarships program are currently open.

The scholarships will support more disability workers to deliver services in regional and rural Victoria. It will do this by providing financial support to complete a course in disability.

Scholarships of \$3,500 will be available to students studying with an approved Victorian training provider. The students must have unpaid placement hours in 2024 and 2025 as part of the:

- Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability) (CHC33021), or
- Certificate IV in Disability Support (CHC43121).

The scholarships are available for domestic students living in regional and rural Victoria and once completing your certificate III or IV qualification you'll be ready to become a registered disability worker.

Applications will close on 20 December 2024.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Regional Disability Worker Scholarships webpage](#).

NDIS Act (Bill No. 2) quality and safeguard amendments consultation - closes this week!

The Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Government Services the Hon. Bill Shorten MP has [announced the second part of legislative reform for the NDIS](#)

[Act](#). The proposed changes will significantly increase protections for NDIS participants and improve the quality and safety of supports for all participants.

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission is conducting consultation and submissions are open to 20 December 2024.

For more information visit ndiscommission.gov.au/about-us/ndis-commission-reform-hub

Keep in touch

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

For more information visit vdwc.vic.gov.au



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