**VDWC End of year message video transcript**

**Speaker: Commissioner Dan Stubbs**

Hi everyone, it's been such a busy year for the disability community, and I'd really like to acknowledge the hard work that everyone's engaged with, with all the consultation and change and a lot of uncertainty across the sector. I'd really like to thank everyone in the disability community in Victoria for continuing to engage with us at the Disability Worker Commission to make this a safer stronger sector in Victoria.

So, at this time I feel like it's never been more important to remind ourselves of why we all do what we do and for me the key factor for all of us is supporting participation in community for people with disabilities and that can take many forms. For some people that's going to support people in engaging in all sorts of different education and training, for some people it will be supporting them getting a job. But for many people it might be just leaving the house or going up the street for a coffee with someone for the first time or leaving your bedroom to watch TV with someone.

One of the ways that disability workers are the highest quality disability workers they can be is by supporting people disabilities to participate in community and a way to show this is to become a registered disability worker in Victoria under our scheme. You'll therefore show that you have the qualifications or experience, and you meet the key standards required by the Disability Worker Registration Board in Victoria. And, so to make the Disability Worker Registration Scheme the best it can be we've been consulting on the disability worker registration standards this year and at the same time we've been doing a whole lot of work to make it easier and quicker for workers to register under the scheme.

I'd also like to really acknowledge the bravery of so many people with disabilities and their families for coming to us this year with their concerns and their complaints about the quality of services they’ve received, the respect that disability workers may not have shown them and of course the safety they've experienced when receiving disability services in Victoria.

Our single largest group of complainants are people with disabilities and it's such an important source of opportunity for improvement for us in the disability services sector. But I'd also like to remind disability workers and disability service providers, employers, that it shouldn't just be people with disabilities and their family bringing issues to us. It's such an important thing to remember that employers and other workers have that obligation to let us know when disability workers are engaging in high-risk or unsafe conduct. You and the sector, disability workers and employers, are our eyes and ears and we really need you to notify us of risky conduct. So, in 2025 we're going to be working with the whole disability services sector and the disability community in a range of different ways, I really look forward to continuing to engage with the sector right across Victoria in different regions.

But for now, have a fabulous festive season and we'll see you in 2025.