

Update from the Commissioner

Welcome to our March eNewsletter.

Firstly, I have an exciting opportunity to announce. Applications are now open for membership of the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria. You can read more about the opportunity below.

In February last year we launched our Training and Development catalogue to help disability workers find training options to build their skills and capabilities, and to assist registered disability workers to meet their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) obligations. The platform has been really well received over the last 12 months and new courses and resources continue to be added.

To ensure the catalogue is serving users effectively, we are undertaking a review of the catalogue. As part of that, we have created a survey to hear your thoughts. Your insights will assist us in developing the catalogue further and into the best resource it can be. There is more information about the survey below.

The Commission continues its engagement across Victoria to spread the word about our role support quality safe disability work, and to hear more about the issues affecting you. As part of our ongoing regional engagement activities, I am looking forward to being a part of the Pathways to Care Insights & Connections event in April. If you live in or around Shepparton, I would love to see you there. More information on the event can be found below.

Applications invited for membership of the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria

The Victorian Government is currently seeking applications for membership of the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria.

- Lead Victoria's voluntary registration scheme for disability workers
- Improve disability worker standards and protect the community
- Be part of a crucial time for disability sector regulation

In particular if you are a <u>registered disability worker</u> or a person with disability who uses disability services, you are encouraged to apply.

Here's what a couple of our Board members say about why being a registered worker on the Board is rewarding:

"I am contributing on the Board at a critical time in the disability sector when we need more people to be committed to developing their knowledge and skills so people with disability can get better support. As a Board member I am part of building our workforce for the future, while also enhancing my personal skills and knowledge too."

Keith McVilly, Board member

"I am part of important changes in the sector, ensuring that the voices of disability workers are included in significant decisions about standards and regulations. Being a registered worker on the Board means I can use my experience on the ground to ensure workers have the right support to be their best, and to advocate for better safeguards for the disability community."

Jessica Sullivan, Board member

The Board conducts a range of critical activities regulating registered disability workers and works with both the Commissioner and the Commission in implementing the Disability Worker Regulation Scheme.

Key areas of Board responsibility include: oversight of the registration process, decisions about who can register, setting standards for registered workers, and deregistering workers.

For more information on this opportunity please click here.

Applications close 10 April 2025.

Seeking your feedback on the VDWC Training and Development Catalogue



The VDWC wants to hear from you about its <u>Training and Development Catalogue</u>. The training and development catalogue is a searchable database of training options that disability workers can assess to improve their professional skills and capability.

We are seeking your feedback on:

- Whether you have used the Training and Development Catalogue
- How useful you find it
- Whether you have ideas on how the catalogue could be improved

To complete the survey, please <u>click here.</u>



By completing the survey, you can enter the prize draw to win **one of ten \$100 vouchers**. It will take less than 10 minutes to complete. The survey closes on 14 April.

Your feedback will help the VDWC to better understand the training needs of disability workers and service providers and better target the information about professional development and training opportunities.

The survey is being run by independent company ORIMA Research on behalf of the Commission. No personal information will be provided to the VDWC and is not linked to responses.

Disability worker registration standards

The Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria and the Commission would like to thank everyone who participated in the consultation on proposed changes to the Victorian disability worker registration standards conducted in late 2024. We sincerely appreciate the time taken to complete the consultation survey and provide submissions.

Your shared insights and valuable feedback have played a crucial role in shaping the future registration standards. The Board is now analysing the feedback received, and the revised registration standards will be published in mid-2025 in anticipation of the 2025-26 registration period. More information about the revised standards will also be provided at that time.

Upcoming events









NDIS Insights and Connections: Safeguarding Participants & Support Workers

- Tuesday 8th April
- Shepparton Golf Club
- (10.30am-12.30pm

Pathways to Care: Insights & Connections

Pathways to Care are hosting their first Insights & Connections event for the year on Tuesday April 8 at the Shepparton Golf Club. The panel-style discussion will focus on safeguarding NDIS participants and workers and feature speakers from Pathways to Care and Wildfire Wellbeing Services.

VDWC Commissioner Dan Stubbs will be a guest speaker, providing insights into the Commission's work in strengthening the workforce and creating safer services for people with disabilities in regional communities.

Date: Tuesday 8 April 2025 **Time:** 10.30am to 12.30pm

Location: 15 Golf Drive, Shepparton, VIC, 3630

Click here for more information and to register for your free ticket.

Become a registered worker



Have you been thinking about becoming a registered disability worker?

If you're unsure why registration is so important for people with disability and the wider sector, <u>click here</u> to read some of our registered worker's stories.

Registration is currently free and shows you're committed to raising the quality of the disability workforce and delivering safe, respectful services.

Through registration, the VDWC seeks to increase safeguards across the entire disability sector, creating better choices for people with disability.

To learn more about registration visit vdwc.vic.gov.au/registration

In the sector

Worker safety and reducing violence

Worker safety and wellbeing is a key part of delivering quality and safe supports to people

with disability. The NDIS Commission has recently launched a new online resource about reducing violence against workers, with information to help you understand and manage risks associated with worker related violence.

The web page includes up-to-date information and links on a range of national, state and territory resources on worker safety and reducing violence. It has been developed in consultation with Unions relevant to the support of workers, providers and participants in the disability sector and National, State and Territory Work, Health and Safety agencies.

Please take the time to read through this important information and share it with any workers you employ or know: ndiscommission.gov.au/workforce/violence-against-workers

Join the Victorian Disability Advisory Council

The Victorian Government is calling for applicants to join the Victorian Disability Advisory Council.

The Council provides valuable advice to the Minister for Disability to increase the participation and inclusion of Victorians with disability.

People with lived experience of disability are encouraged to apply. The Council aims to reflect the diversity of the community. The council's next three-year term will run from 31 July 2025 to 30 July 2028.

Those applying for the chair or deputy chair position must be someone with a disability. There are two positions that are designated for First Nations people.

The government is looking for applicants with skills, knowledge and experience in matters that are important to people with disability. This includes parents and carers of children with disability.

Applications close 12 April 2025. To find out more and apply, visit the <u>Join a public board</u> website.

Join the YDAS Youth Committee

Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS) is looking for 10 disabled young people in Victoria to join its new Youth Committee!

The Youth Committee is a fun and exciting opportunity to meet other disabled young people and be part of the future of YDAS.

Applications close Sunday 6th April at 11.59pm.

For more information, including how to apply click here.

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

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