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The Commission will also be running a workshop on Tuesday 21st February titled: **'What is the Victorian Disability Worker Commission (VDWC) and how can they support you to be safe in using services'.** We are excited to again be involved in supporting this great event.  **Date:** 20-21 February 2023, 9:30am-3:30pm  **Where:** Deakin University, Waterfront Campus, 1 Gheringhap Street, Geelong.   For more information check out the conference program at [**www.valid.org.au**](http://www.valid.org.au/)**. Look forward to seeing you there!** | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **News and updates** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Midsumma March – Sunday 5 February**  Commission staff stepped out loud and proud on Sunday 5 February to support the annual Midsumma Pride March in St Kilda. It was great to support this event and promote the message of tolerance, diversity and inclusion.  We recognise that many people with disabilities, disability workers and family members identify as LGBTI+ and that this can be a factor for some in receiving quality and safe services. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Benefits of becoming a registered disability worker – animated video**  The Commission has produced an animated video on the benefits of becoming a registered disability worker. The video highlights the benefits of registration as a means to improving safety standards across the disability sector and is now available for viewing. Check out the video on our [website](https://www.vdwc.vic.gov.au/watch-our-video-benefits-registration) and social media channels.    **Registration reminder for 2023**  The new year is here and if disability worker registration is something you’ve been thinking about, now is the perfect time to submit your application. We’re encouraging even more disability workers to register and show they have the right skills to deliver quality services. Registration recognises you for the crucial work you do as a disability worker. The good news is that registration continues to be free in this year and your skills, experience and track record are all taken into account. You can find out how to register on our website at the [registration page](https://www.vdwc.vic.gov.au/registration/). You can also find a registered disability worker on the [public register on our website](https://portal.vdwc.vic.gov.au/publicregister/home).   **How do I make a complaint?** If you have any concerns about a disability worker, our team is here to listen, help and guide you as we understand it can be difficult to take the step of contacting us on **1800 497 132**. You can also make a complaint via our [online form](https://portal.vdwc.vic.gov.au/public/home).  **Single-use plastics restrictions – exemptions for those with disability**  As of 1 February 2023, [the Victorian government restricted problematic single-use plastics](https://www.vic.gov.au/single-use-plastics) from sale or supply in Victoria. However, there are exemptions relating to people with disability. For example, **single-use drinking straws can continue to be used by individuals with a disability or other medical need**.  **Subscribe to new prohibition orders** The Commissioner is able to issue prohibition orders to avoid a 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 practise if certain conditions are met.   You can [sign up](https://www.vdwc.vic.gov.au/prohibition-order-updates) to receive direct email alerts when there is an update to the public prohibition orders page of the Commission website. For more information visit <https://www.vdwc.vic.gov.au/prohibition-orders>. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Keep in touch  If our e-newsletter was forwarded to you and you'd like to subscribe please go to:**<https://www.vdwc.vic.gov.au/subscribe> **If you have any questions or comments, please get in touch via our website**[Contact us](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__vic.us18.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3D232a0a9d44abb1b0358bac209-26id-3Deb38eb5f04-26e-3D0e3bba9bd6&d=DwMFaQ&c=JnBkUqWXzx2bz-3a05d47Q&r=B_svBnE2hBdEtZ3t1evVbwFhUs00Y5qxZHYlrtXSBuE&m=9HhmnP_irr6CJoJIucFP9OyT-kuTsD3ON8s6yz7N2WQ&s=5-Xjo3rXBku-t8omFDu4YDEnqdDuZj_Gef9lw7I41j4&e=)**page, send an email to**[info@vdwc.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@vdwc.vic.gov.au)**or call us on 1800 497 132.  For more information visit**[vdwc.vic.gov.au](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__vic.us18.list-2Dmanage.com_track_click-3Fu-3D232a0a9d44abb1b0358bac209-26id-3D8af7faed85-26e-3D0e3bba9bd6&d=DwMFaQ&c=JnBkUqWXzx2bz-3a05d47Q&r=B_svBnE2hBdEtZ3t1evVbwFhUs00Y5qxZHYlrtXSBuE&m=9HhmnP_irr6CJoJIucFP9OyT-kuTsD3ON8s6yz7N2WQ&s=Q3Agvu4D9H9oa6-cHoZS_fgWeFUFa6AwfW0ECbvmtTI&e=) | | | |