



**VALID**

# Advocacy in Action Conference 2026

**Connecting Voices, Creating Change**

## Program Summary

### Dates

22 - 23 June 2026

9.00am - 4:30pm

### Novotel

215 Bell St. Preston

### More Information

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**VALID**  
Advocacy in Action  
Conference

## Program Summary: VALID Advocacy in Action conference 2026

Time	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026		Session Information
8.30 – 9.00am	Registration, pick up flyers and other info, coffee / tea – foyer area		
9.00 – 10.10am	<b>Opening Plenary: Changes to the NDIS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Panel including Sarah Gingold, Disability Services Consulting (DSC), Editor-in-Chief and Naomi Anderson, Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service</li> </ul>		
10.40 – 11.25am	<b>Plenary Session</b> Parliamentary Secretary for Disability Mr Iwan Walters MP		
11.30am – 12.30	Sara Gingold, Disability Services Consulting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What we know about the new Support Needs Assessment?</li> </ul>	Naomi Anderson, Villamanta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Q&amp;A (Questions &amp; Answer) session on the NDIS changes</li> </ul>
1.30 – 2.40pm	<b>Keynote Plenary: Creating Change - Connecting Voices</b> Kevin Stone AM, VALID Founder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where Did We Go Right? Reflections on the VALID Journey</li> </ul>		
3.10 – 4.25pm	<b>Safeguarding NDIS participants</b> Rod Carracher, NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joining the Dots: Using Incidents, Complaints and Restrictive Practice Data to Prevent Harm.</li> </ul>	<b>Protecting Rights</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renter Rights, SDA (Specialist Disability Accommodation)</li> <li>Making complaints to the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC)</li> </ol>	
4.30	<b>Networking Event</b> - Social drinks and nibbles in The Stampton – bookings required		

Time	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026		Session Information
8.30 – 9.00am	Registration, pick up flyers and other info, coffee / tea – foyer area		
9.00 – 9.50am	<b>Tuesday Plenary:</b> Shadow Minister for Disability, The Hon Ted Bull MP		
10.20 – 11.20am	<b>Inclusive Justice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emily Piggot, Centre for Innovative Justice</li> <li>Frederikke Jensen, VALID</li> </ul>	<b>SAFE Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SARU (Self Advocacy Resource Unit)</li> <li>Inclusion Australia</li> </ul>	
11.30am - 12.30	<b>Open Advocacy Microphone</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have your say about 'advocacy' issues.</li> <li>Bookings required so we keep on time!</li> </ul>	<b>Disability Employment Investments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A philanthropic collective transforming employment opportunity.</li> </ul>	
1.30 – 2.45pm	<b>Listening to Lived Experience Voices</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VALID Voices, VALID's Lived Experience team launch</li> <li>Digital Champions, Down Syndrome Australia</li> </ol>	<b>Health Issues</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driving Change, VALID project on Inclusive Health</li> <li>Julia Hawkins, National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health</li> </ol>	
3.15 – 4.30pm	<b>Closing Plenary: Safeguarding and Advocacy by / for People with disability</b> Panel including Dan Stubbs, Victorian Public Advocate, Kate Maddern, Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner & Julie Phillips, Disability Advocacy Victoria		