



VALID

Advocacy in Action Conference 2026

Connecting Voices, Creating Change

Program

22 - 23 June 2026

9.00am - 4:30pm

Novotel

215 Bell St. Preston

Free parking (see back page)

More Information

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[Click here to register](#)



Full Program

Monday 22nd June 2026

Time	Session Information	
8.30 – 9.00am	Registration, pick up flyers and other info, coffee / tea – foyer area	
9.00 – 10.10am	Opening Plenary Session Welcome to Country Changes to the NDIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Gingold, Editor-in-Chief, Disability Services Consulting • Naomi Anderson, Legal Practice Manager, Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service • NDIA representative (to be confirmed) • William Ward-Boas, Chair VALID Board 	
10.10 – 10.40am	Morning break (<i>The Market Room lobby</i>)	
10.40 – 11.20am	Plenary Session Parliamentary Secretary for Disability, Mr Iwan Walters MP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including questions from a lived experience panel 	
10 mins	Changeover time	
11.30am – 12.30pm	Market Room 1 Sara Gingold, Disability Services Consulting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we know about the new Support Needs Assessment? 	Market Room 2 Naomi Anderson, Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A (Questions & Answers) session on the NDIS changes
12.30 – 1.30pm	Lunch (<i>The Stampton Room</i>)	
1.30 – 2.40pm	Plenary Session Keynote: Kevin Stone AM, VALID Founder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Change - Connecting Voices: Where Did We Go Right? • Reflections on the VALID Journey 	
2.40 – 3.10pm	Afternoon break (<i>The Market Room lobby</i>)	
3.10 – 4.25pm	Market Room 1 Safeguarding NDIS participants Rod Carracher, Deputy Commissioner, NDIS Quality & Safeguards Commission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joining the Dots: Using Incidents, Complaints and Restrictive Practice Data to Prevent Harm 	Market Room 2 Protecting Rights <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SDA (Specialist Disability Accommodation) Renter Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Discussion 2. IBAC (Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to make complaints to IBAC
4.30 – 5.30pm	Networking Event Join us for social drinks and nibbles in The Stampton Room – bookings required	

Tuesday 23rd June 2026

Time	Session Information	
8.30 – 9.00am	Registration, pick up flyers and other info, coffee / tea – foyer area	
9.00 – 9.50am	Tuesday Plenary Acknowledgement of Country Shadow Minister for Disability, The Hon Tim Bull MP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including questions from a lived experience panel 	
9.50 – 10.20am	Morning break (<i>The Market Room lobby</i>)	
10.20 – 11.20am	Breakout Sessions	
	Market Room 1 Inclusive Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emily Piggot, Centre for Innovative Justice (CIJ) • Frederikke Jensen, VALID 	Market Room 2 SAFE Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SARU (Self Advocacy Resource Unit) • Inclusion Australia
11.20 – 11.30am	Changeover time	
11.30am – 12.30pm	Market Room 1 Open Advocacy Microphone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your say about ‘advocacy’ issues • <u>Bookings required</u> so that we don’t run out of time! 	Market Room 2 Digital Champions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Down Syndrome Australia Lived experience team championing confidence & safety for people with disability online
12.30 – 1.30pm	Lunch (<i>The Stampton Room</i>)	
1.30 – 2.45pm	Breakout Sessions	
	Market Room 1 Lived Experience in Action Webinar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VALID Voices, VALID’s Lived Experience team launch • This session will be livestreamed as a webinar 	Market Room 2 Health Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving Change: VALID project on Inclusive Health • Julia Hawkins, National Centre of Excellence in Intellectual Disability Health
2.45 – 3.15pm	Afternoon break (<i>The Market Room lobby</i>)	
3.15 – 4.30pm	Closing Plenary: Panel and discussion: Regulation, Safeguarding and Advocacy by / for People with Disabilities – Complementary Roles? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Stubbs, Victorian Public Advocate, Office of the Public Advocate • Kate Maddern, Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner (VDWC) • Julie Phillips, Chair, Disability Advocacy Victoria (DAV) Thank you and closing	

Parking

Free to delegates ONLY if you park in the underground carpark.

Carpark ENTRY via
137 Hotham St, Preston

[Download](#) Info Sheet

More Information

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Accommodation

Novotel

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