



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 (as of 11th June)

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	<p>Opening Plenary Session</p> <p>Acknowledgment of Country</p> <p>Welcome video from the Commonwealth NDIS Minister, Hon Jenny McAllister</p> <p>Panel on the Changes to the NDIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Ward-Boas, Chair VALID Board • Sara Gingold, Editor-in-Chief, Disability Services Consulting • Naomi Anderson, Legal Practice Manager, Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service • Maeve Kennedy, CEO Inclusion Australia • Megan Spindler-Smith, CEO, People With Disability Australia • Luke Nelson, self-advocate 	
10.10 – 10.40am	Morning break (<i>The Market Room lobby</i>)	
10.40 – 11.20am	<p>Plenary Session</p> <p>Parliamentary Secretary for Disability, Mr Iwan Walters MP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including questions from a lived experience panel 	
10 mins	Changeover time	
11.30am – 12.30pm	<p>Market Room 1</p> <p>Sara Gingold, Disability Services Consulting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we know about the new Support Needs Assessment? 	<p>Market Room 2</p> <p>Naomi Anderson & Julia Sheridan, Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service</p> <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	<p>Plenary Session</p> <p>Keynote: Kevin Stone AM, VALID Founder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We're not going back! • We fought for the NDIS, so we are not going back to the dark ages. 	
2.40 – 3.10pm	Afternoon break (<i>The Market Room lobby</i>)	
3.10 – 4.25pm	<p>Market Room 1</p> <p>Inclusion Australia (IA) Position on the NDIS Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maeve Kennedy, CEO Inclusion Australia • Discussion of a national response 	<p>Market Room 2</p> <p>The impact of NDIS changes on Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Discussion by parents, Diane McCarthy, Christine Scott and Kevin Stone
4.30 – 5.30pm	<p>Networking Event</p> <p>Join us for social drinks and nibbles in The Stampton Room – bookings required</p>	

Tuesday 23rd June 2026

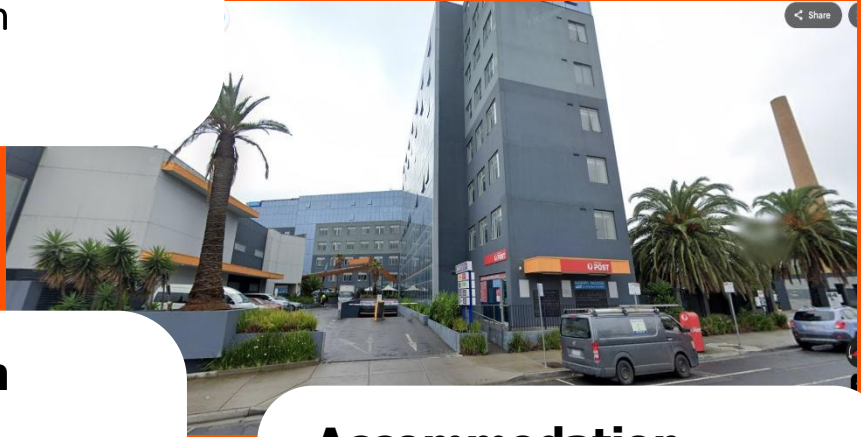
Time	Session Information	
8.30 – 9.00am	Registration, pick up flyers and other info, coffee / tea – foyer area	
9.00 – 9.50am	Tuesday Plenary Acknowledgement of Country Shadow Minister for Disability, The Hon Tim Bull MP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including questions from a lived experience panel 	
9.50 – 10.20am	Morning break (<i>The Market Room lobby</i>)	
10.20 – 11.20am	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 SARU (Self Advocacy Resource Unit) and Inclusion Australia will talk about the Self Advocacy For Everyone (SAFE) project
11.20 – 11.30am	Changeover time	
11.30am – 12.30pm	Protecting Rights <ol style="list-style-type: none"> SDA (Specialist Disability Accommodation) Renter Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel Discussion Making complaints to IBAC (Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liana Buchanan, IBAC Deputy Commissioner 	
12.30 – 1.30pm	Lunch (<i>The Stampton Room</i>)	
1.30 – 2.45pm	Market Room 1 Lived Experience in Action Webinar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VALID Voices, VALID’s Lived Experience team launch Digital Champions (Down Syndrome Aust) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lived experience team championing confidence & safety online 	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) 	

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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