



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 15th 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

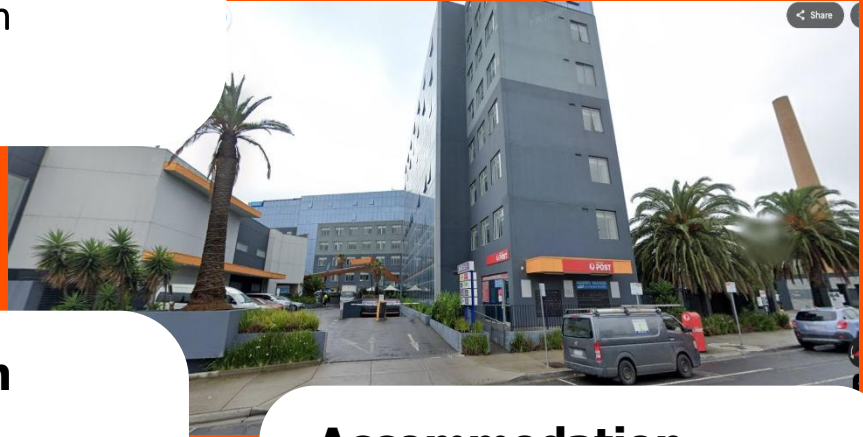
Time	Session Information	
8.30 – 9.00am	Registration, pick up flyers and other info, coffee / tea – foyer area	
9.00 – 9.50am	Tuesday Plenary Acknowledgement of Country Culturally And Linguistically Diverse Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including lived experience presenters from the I Can Decide Project 	
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"> 1. SDA (Specialist Disability Accommodation) Renter Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Discussion 2. 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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