



**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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	<b>Opening Plenary Session</b> Welcome to Country Changes to the NDIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sara Gingold, Editor-in-Chief, Disability Services Consulting</li> <li>• Naomi Anderson, Legal Practice Manager, Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service</li> <li>• Maeve Kennedy, CEO Inclusion Australia</li> <li>• William Ward-Boas, Chair VALID Board</li> </ul>	
10.10 – 10.40am	Morning break ( <i>The Market Room lobby</i> )	
10.40 – 11.20am	<b>Plenary Session</b> Parliamentary Secretary for Disability, Mr Iwan Walters MP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including questions from a lived experience panel</li> </ul>	
10 mins	<b>Changeover time</b>	
11.30am – 12.30pm	<b>Market Room 1</b> Sara Gingold, Disability Services Consulting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do we know about the new Support Needs Assessment?</li> </ul>	<b>Market Room 2</b> Naomi Anderson & Julia Sheridan, Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q&amp;A (Questions &amp; Answers) session on the NDIS changes</li> </ul>
12.30 – 1.30pm	Lunch ( <i>The Stampton Room</i> )	
1.30 – 2.40pm	<b>Plenary Session</b> Keynote: Kevin Stone AM, VALID Founder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We're not going back!</li> <li>• We fought for the NDIS, so we are not going back to the dark ages.</li> </ul>	
2.40 – 3.10pm	Afternoon break ( <i>The Market Room lobby</i> )	
3.10 – 4.25pm	<b>Market Room 1</b> <b>Inclusion Australia (IA)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IA position on the current and planned changes to the NDIS</li> <li>• Discussion of a national response</li> </ul>	<b>Market Room 2</b> <b>The impact of NDIS changes on Families</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panel Discussion including Maeve Kennedy, Christine Scott and Kevin Stone</li> </ul>
4.30 – 5.30pm	<b>Networking Event</b> Join us for social drinks and nibbles in The Stampton Room – bookings required	

# Tuesday 23rd June 2026

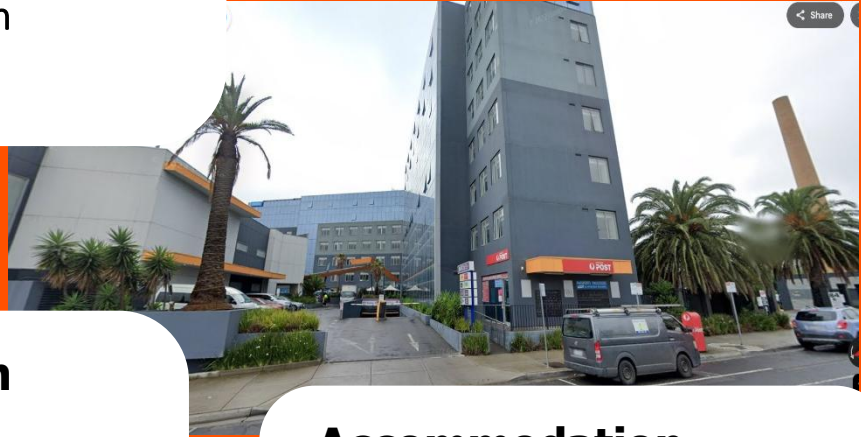
Time	Session Information	
8.30 – 9.00am	Registration, pick up flyers and other info, coffee / tea – foyer area	
9.00 – 9.50am	<b>Tuesday Plenary</b> Acknowledgement of Country Shadow Minister for Disability, The Hon Tim Bull MP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Including questions from a lived experience panel</li> </ul>	
9.50 – 10.20am	Morning break ( <i>The Market Room lobby</i> )	
10.20 – 11.20am	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	
	<b>Market Room 1</b> <b>Inclusive Justice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emily Piggot, Centre for Innovative Justice (CIJ)</li> <li>Frederikke Jensen, VALID</li> </ul>	<b>Market Room 2</b> <b>SAFE Project</b> 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	<b>Protecting Rights</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SDA (Specialist Disability Accommodation) Renter Rights               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Panel Discussion</li> </ul> </li> <li>IBAC (Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to make complaints to IBAC</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	
12.30 – 1.30pm	Lunch ( <i>The Stampton Room</i> )	
1.30 – 2.45pm	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	
	<b>Market Room 1</b> <b>Lived Experience in Action Webinar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VALID Voices, VALID's Lived Experience team launch</li> </ul> <b>Digital Champions</b> (Down Syndrome Aust) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lived experience team championing confidence &amp; safety online</li> </ul>	<b>Market Room 2</b> <b>Health Issues</b> <ul 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> </ul>
2.45 – 3.15pm	Afternoon break ( <i>The Market Room lobby</i> )	
3.15 – 4.30pm	<b>Closing Plenary:</b> Panel and discussion: Regulation, Safeguarding and Advocacy by / for People with Disabilities – Complementary Roles? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dan Stubbs, Victorian Public Advocate, Office of the Public Advocate</li> <li>Kate Maddern, Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner (VDWC)</li> <li>Julie Phillips, Chair, Disability Advocacy Victoria (DAV)</li> </ul>	

## 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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## Thank you to Sponsors



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