

Changes to laws that protect people with disability in Victoria

Easy Read version



How to use this document



The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) wrote this document.

When you see the word 'we', it means DFFH.



We wrote this information in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

Not bold

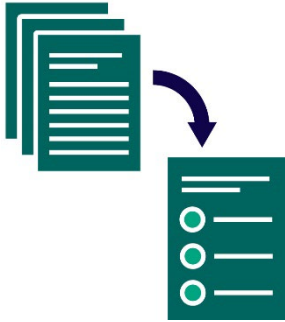
This means the letters are thicker and darker.

Word list



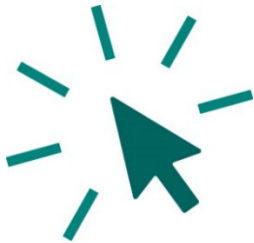
We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page **18**.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website.

<https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/disability-and-social-services-regulation-amendment-act-2023>



You can ask for help to read this document.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

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What this document is about



The Victorian Government made a new law called the Disability and Social Services Regulation Amendment Act 2023.

In this document, we call it the new law.



The new law makes changes to other laws in Victoria.

These changes will improve the **rights** of people with disability.

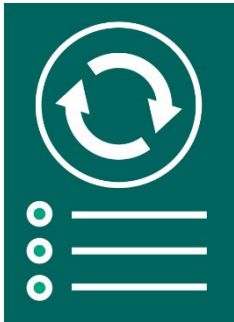


Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



The new law also makes changes to other laws in Victoria to keep people with disability safe.



This document explains:

- what laws will change
- how these laws will change
- when these laws will change.

Who we heard from



We asked people for their ideas to help us make the new law.

We heard ideas from:



- people with disability



- families and carers



- the community.



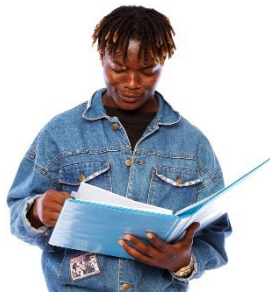
We heard from organisations that support:

- people with disability
- the community.

What laws will change



The new law will change 4 other laws in Victoria.



We explain some of the changes to these other laws on the pages below.

Disability Act 2006



The Disability Act 2006 supports people with disability to be treated fairly in Victoria.

Changes to the Disability Act 2006 will improve the:



- rights of people with disability



- safety of services.

Changes to the Disability Act 2006 will help **providers**:



- share information



- better understand what they need to do.



Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



Changes to the Disability Act 2006 will help make sure that **restrictive practices** are only used in the right way.



Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

- moving
- doing what they want.

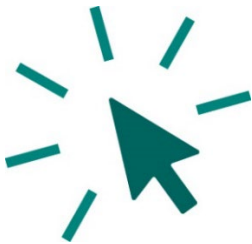


Changes to the Disability Act 2006 will help **Community Visitors** go to more places where people with disability live.



Community Visitors go to places where people with disability live to:

- make sure they are safe
- check on their wellbeing
- help them speak up about any problems.

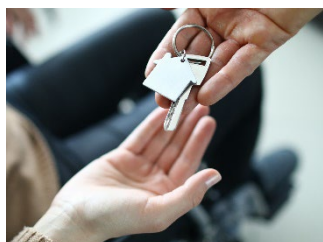


You can find the full law on the Victorian Legislation website.

You might need support to read this law.

www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/disability-act-2006

Residential Tenancies Act 1997



The Residential Tenancies Act 1997 protects the rights of people who:

- live in a house they don't own
- own a house that other people live in.



Changes to the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 will better protect people living in **specialist disability accommodation (SDA)**.



SDA is housing for people with disability who need extra support most of the time.



Changes to the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 will mean that different types of houses can be SDA.



This means more people will have rights under the Residential Tenancies Act 1997.



Changes to the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 will give people who live in SDA more choice.



These changes can protect people in more ways.



You can find out more about these changes on our website.

www.dffh.vic.gov.au/changes-residential-tenancies-act-1997

You can find the full law on the Victorian Legislation website.



You might need support to read this law.

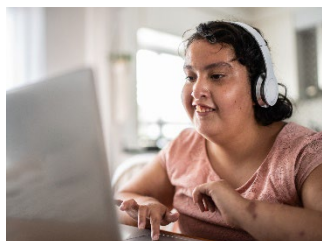
www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/residential-tenancies-act-1997

Disability Service Safeguards Act 2018

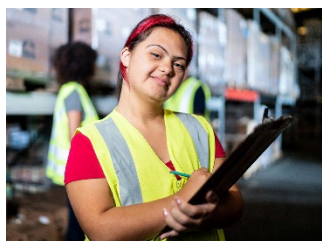
The Disability Service Safeguards Act 2018 makes sure:



- people with disability get good services
- people with disability are safe
- disability workers know how to support people with disability.



Changes to the Disability Service Safeguards Act 2018 will make it easier for workers to register for the Victorian Disability Worker Regulation Scheme.



This scheme helps to make sure that workers:

- do their jobs well
- know how to support people with disability.

You can find the full law on the Victorian Legislation website.



You might need support to read this law.

www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/disability-service-safeguards-act-2018

Social Services Regulation Act 2021



The Social Services Regulation Act 2021 aims to make sure **social service** providers deliver services that:

- are safe
- meet the needs of people who use social services.



Social services include different types of supports that help people manage their daily lives.

Social services can include:



- disability services



- child and family services.



The Social Services Regulation Act 2021 made a new type of **regulator** role.

We call it the social services regulator.



A regulator is someone who makes sure:

- everything works well
- everyone follows the rules.



Changes to the Social Services Regulation Act 2021 will help support the work these regulators do.



For example, they will be able to check that the places where some people live are safe.

This includes places where people with disability live.

You can find the full law on the Victorian Legislation website.



You might need support to read this law.

www.legislation.vic.gov.au/as-made/acts/disability-and-social-services-regulation-amendment-act-2023

When these laws will change



Some of these laws already changed in 2023.



This includes the:

- Disability Act 2006
- Disability Service Safeguards Act 2018.



Some of these laws will change on 1 July 2024.



This includes the:

- Residential Tenancies Act 1997
- Social Services Regulation Act 2021.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.

Community Visitors



Community Visitors go to places where people with disability live to:

- make sure they are safe
- check on their wellbeing
- help them speak up about any problems.



Providers

Providers support people with disability by delivering a service.



Regulator

A regulator is someone who makes sure:

- everything works well
- everyone follows the rules.



Restrictive practices

Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

- moving
- doing what they want.



Rights

Rights are rules about how people must treat you:

- fairly
- equally.



Social services

Social services include different types of supports that help people manage their daily lives.



Specialist disability accommodation (SDA)

SDA is housing for people with disability who need extra support most of the time.

Contact us



You can contact us if you need us to give you this information in a different way.



For example, if you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment.



You can call us.

(03) 9821 6113



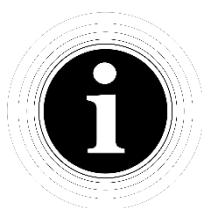
You can call the National Relay Service.

1800 555 660



You can also email the Disability Act Review team.

disabilityactreview@dffh.vic.gov.au



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To receive this document in another format, phone **(03) 9821 6113** or email the Disability Act Review team disabilityactreview@dfh.vic.gov.au

Help for people with hearing or speech communication difficulties

Contact us through the National Relay Service (NRS).

For more information on the NRS:

- visit National Relay Service – www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs
- call the NRS Helpdesk on **1800 555 660**.

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