In the ever shifting landscape reforming disability service delivery and support, it is imperative that disability advocates come together to keep abreast of the changes and understand the impact these have on the practice of disability advocacy.

**This forum series provides advocates with a space for gathering information, sharing knowledge and providing time to network.**

***LIVESTREAMING LINK:*** [***https://livestream.com/expression/DARU-ASCF***](https://livestream.com/expression/DARU-ASCF)

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| 11:00am-11:05am | **Welcome and Introductions- Melissa Hale, DARU Coordinator** |
| **11:05am-12:00pm** | **Victorias Bushfire Response- whats next?**– *Andrea Spiteri, Director Emergency Management, DHHS*  The DHHS will provide advocates with an update on the status of the affected areas, recovery efforts, and where to go to get help if needed. DHHS will present on their work and response in assisting people with disability in the affected areas and would like to hear from disability advocates about what additional support is needed on the ground. |
| **12:10pm-1:00pm** | **Lunch** |
| **1:00pm-2:00pm** | **Advocacy at the Intersections- Working alongside LGBTIQ+ people with disability–**  *Jax (Jacki) Brown, queerspace*  Accessibility and inclusion is more than just a checklist.  Our interactive workshop will reflect on the first six months of the DARU and queerspace Advocacy at the Intersections project and provide an opportunity for the disability advocacy sector to discuss what advocating for LGBTIQ+ inclusion looks like. We’ll share training videos and Tip Sheets co-designed by LGBTIQ+ people with disabilities and disability advocacy organisations aiming to highlight best practice examples and the value of sharing lived experience. |
| **2:00pm-2:30pm** | **Afternoon Tea** |
| **2:30pm-3:30pm** | **Worker Registration and Quality and Safeguarding people with disability in Northern Ireland–** *Marian O’Rourke, Interim Director for Regulation and Standards, Northern Ireland Social Care Council & Fidelma Carolan, Senior Consultant, Leadership Centre, Health & Social Care Service Northern Ireland*  In Northern Ireland, social care workers have been regulated since 2016 which was phased in via a four year rolling programme starting in 2012. In that time over 36,000 workers from a range of social care disciplines across residential, community, housing and advocacy services were registered. As a public protection measure, the process involved engagement from a range of stakeholders including employers, people who use services and their families, government and trade unions. As part of this a Code of Fitness to Practice was introduced and standards developed to improve quality of delivery and consistency. This conversation will be led by Marian O’Rourke, Director of Regulation and Standards, Northern Ireland Social Care Council and Fidelma Carolan, former Regional Official with the trade union UNISON on their experience and learning from the process. |
| **3:30pm-4:00pm** | **Update on sector projects: Disability Advocacy Intake, and Impact of NDIS on Disability Advocacy Organisations-** *Melissa Hale, DARU*  DARU has recently been funded by the Office for Disability to oversee two projects: one is a feasibility study on a central intake/referral process for Disability Advocacy Organisations in Victoria, and another is a research project to measure the impact of the NDIS on Disability Advocacy Organisations. Melissa will give a brief overview of what these projects are about, what they hope to achieve and how they will be done. There will be an opportunity to feedback into these projects and ask questions. |