



1. A message from the Chair



Since August 2016, nearly 400 Training and Information Program (TIP) officers and advocates have attended a Recognition of Prior Learning session, and are now receiving their Statements of Attainment for meeting the competency standards for Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) Military Advocate Level 2 in either Compensation, Welfare or both.

I'm very proud that we've reached this major milestone in the rollout of the ATDP. It's a tangible sign that hundreds of compensation and welfare officers from all parts of Australia have found the Recognition of Prior Learning process straightforward and have embraced the move from the Training and Information Program (TIP) to the new system.

I'd like to thank each and every one of these advocates for coming on the journey with us, so that all ex-servicemen and women can be assured of receiving high quality and consistent advocacy services no matter where they live in Australia and when they served their country.

I urge all members and officials of ex-service organisations and veterans' centres who are still hesitant about nominating for recognition of prior learning (RPL) to contact their regional manager for a chat. Peter, Allan and Dave are very happy to hear your concerns and to answer any questions. And, as you can see from their photos on the last page of this newsletter, they are all very friendly!

There are some Level 2 RPL sessions and Mentoring Workshops scheduled between now and the end of the year. Another round of Information Sessions is also being planned. For details, see the ATDP website: www.atdp.org.au

RPL for Level 1 practitioners will be available soon, with RPL for Level 3 to follow in December and RPL for Level 4 in early 2018. There is more information about the rollout of ATDP training programs on pages 4 and 5.

This issue of *Advocacy News* is full of useful information about military advocacy: the different roles in the ATDP, mentoring and the Continuing Professional Development Program; an explanation of the ATDP training pathway and RPL; the ATDP training schedule; and a list of online resources for advocates.

I hope you enjoy this issue our newsletter, and I'd like to hear what you think. Please send your feedback and suggestions to ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au.

Jenny Walker

Chair, Strategic Governance Board
Advocacy Training and Development Program

2. Job descriptions – who does what?

In the ATDP there is a range of roles to suit people with different interests and skills, and different capacities to help their fellow veterans. Listed below are the main roles in the ATDP, with information about what they do and the qualifications required.

(**NB.** Your ex-service organisation or veterans' centre also has plenty of work for willing volunteers that require absolutely no qualifications whatsoever!)

ATDP Role Descriptions

Role	Description	Qualifications required *
Military Welfare Advocate Level 1	Under supervision, advise and assist members of the ex-serving community and their families to access entitlements, benefits and support available from DVA, other government agencies and community-based service providers.	Meets the requirements for the MILADW001 Unit of Competency
Military Welfare Advocate Level 2	Advise and assist members of the ex-serving community and their families to access entitlements, benefits and support available from DVA, other government agencies and community-based service providers.	Meets the requirements for the MILADW002 Unit of Competency
Military Compensation Advocate Level 1	Under supervision, advise and assist members of the ex-serving community and their families with compensation and rehabilitation claims.	Meets the requirements for the MILADC001 Unit of Competency
Military Compensation Advocate Level 2	Advise and assist members of the ex-serving community and their families with compensation and rehabilitation claims.	Meets the requirements for the MILADC002 Unit of Competency
Military Compensation Advocate Level 3	Advocate on behalf of members of the ex-serving community before the Veterans' Review Board	Meets the requirements for the MILADC003 Unit of Competency
Military Compensation Advocate Level 4	Advocate on behalf of members of the ex-serving community before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal	Meets the requirements for the MILADC004 Unit of Competency
Mentor	Guide their mentees (trainee advocates) through their Level 1 and/or Level 2 training and record their progress.	Accredited at the level the mentee is undertaking, and has completed the ATDP Mentoring Workshop
Regional Mentor	Monitor and report on the progress of trainees in their region, and provide access to and help with online learning.	Accredited Military Advocate Level 2, and has completed the ATDP Mentoring Workshop
Facilitator	Conduct training in accordance with the accredited ATDP curriculum.	Accredited Military Advocate at level of training program, and meets the requirements for the TAESS00014 Enterprise Trainer – Presenting Skill Set
Assessor	Assess whether ATDP candidates meet the requirements for accreditation.	Accredited Military Advocate at level of training program, and meets the requirements for the TAESS00011 – Assessor Skill Set
Welfare Support Officer	Provide companionship to veterans, make home and hospital visits, and other non-advisory support tasks.	No formal training is currently available, but a non-accredited ATDP course is being planned.

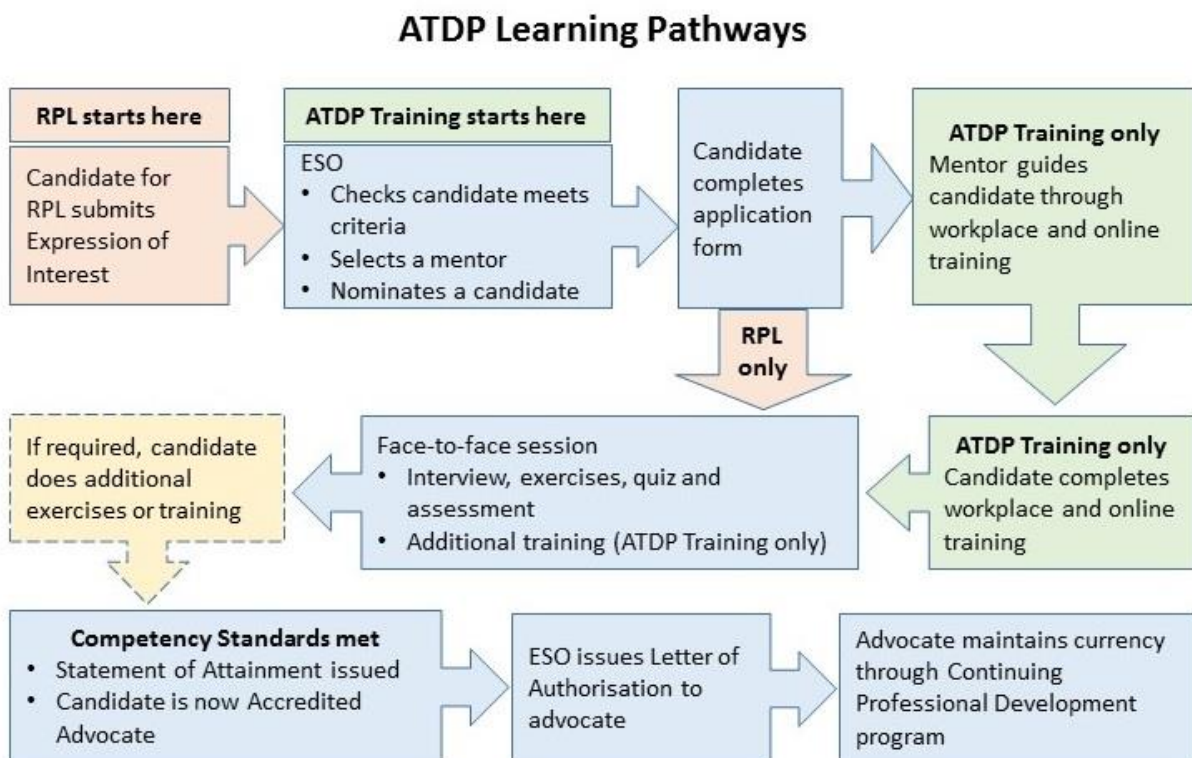
* Information about the MILAD units is available from the [ATDP website](https://training.gov.au). Details of the TAE skills are on the <https://training.gov.au> website.

3. ATDP learning pathways

ATDP training programs are designed to combine the best of TIP training with contemporary learning practices and meet the standards set out in the Australian Qualifications Framework.

There are two pathways to gaining an ATDP qualification as a Military Advocate:

1. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), and
 2. ATDP Training Programs
- RPL is for qualified TIP practitioners who wish to gain ATDP accreditation at their TIP level.
 - ATDP Training Programs are for new advocates, or for experienced practitioners who wish to gain accreditation at the next level.



These are the steps involved:

Over 400 candidates are working through or have completed their on-the-job and online training activities for Military Compensation Level 1 and/or the Military Welfare Level 1. Consolidation Training for these candidates will begin in early 2018.

If you have reached this stage of your training, you will be invited to attend a consolidation session. If you have any questions, please contact the Administration Officer for your region. Their details are at the end of this newsletter.

4. ATDP training schedule

The ATDP Training Team is currently preparing Consolidation Training for Military Compensation Level 1 and Military Welfare Level 1.

They are also working on the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Level 1 (Compensation and Welfare) programs, and the ATDP Military Welfare Level 2 and ATDP Military Compensation Level 2 training programs.

That means when Level 1 candidates have completed their Consolidation Training and have been assessed as meeting the competency standards, they will soon be able to start their Level 2 training if they wish to do so.

This is the schedule for the rollout of all the core ATDP training programs:

Training Program	For people with no TIP training		For people who have completed TIP training at the equivalent level
	Workplace and Online Training	Consolidation Training	RPL
Military Welfare Level 1	Available now	Early 2018	October 2017
Military Welfare Level 2	December 2017	Mid-2018	Available now
Military Compensation Level 1	Available now	Early 2018	October 2017
Military Compensation Level 2	December 2017	Mid-2018	Available now
Military Compensation Level 3	Late 2018	Late 2018	December 2017
Military Compensation Level 4	Early 2019	Early 2019	Early 2018

This rollout schedule is for the additional ATDP training programs:

For practitioners at Levels 2, 3 & 4	
Mentoring Workshop	Available now
Continuing Professional Development Program	First half of 2018
For experienced trainers	
Enterprise Trainer Skill Set	Available now
Assessor Skill Set	Available now

NB. These dates are approximate – delivery is dependent on many variables, including the availability of the volunteers who are developing the programs.

5. Mentoring



The role of the ATDP Mentor is to facilitate their mentee/s' learning and development. Often mentors belong to the same sub branch, branch or veteran centre as their mentee, but this is not always the case.

The purpose of the ATDP is to work nationally to train and develop advocates. One of the ways it does this is by linking advocates in various veterans' organisations into location-based 'Communities of Practice' (CoPs). CoP members engage in

collective learning and support one another through mentoring, knowledge-sharing and networking.

The ATDP recognises that:

- senior advocates with large caseloads may not have time to take on a mentoring role
- mentors should not have so many mentees that they cannot give each one the individual attention they require, and
- smaller organisations may not have advocates who are sufficiently senior to be a mentor.

If you would like to be put in touch with a mentor in your area, please contact your friendly ATDP Regional Manager. Their contact details are on the last page of this newsletter.

Each ATDP region also has a number of Regional Mentors. These are experienced advocates whose role is to assist and support the mentors in their area. If you are a mentor and have questions about your role, ask your ATDP Admin officer to put you in touch with one in your area. Their contact details are on the last page of this newsletter.

6. Continuing Professional Development Program – the new 'refresher'

Welfare and compensation officers and advocates have always kept their knowledge up-to-date by attending refresher training – usually face-to-face foundation or add-on courses at the advocate's current level.

The ATDP is introducing a new system to ensure military advocates have the latest skills and knowledge: Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Like all ATDP training, CPD is a contemporary learning practice. It is designed to ensure that advocates continue to provide the high-quality service that current and former ADF members and their families expect and deserve.

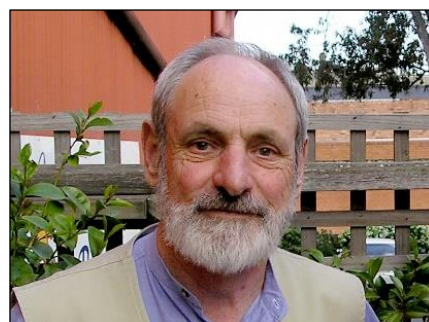
CPD is a points-based system – just like those used by engineers, accountants and many other professions. Points are earned through a range of activities, such as online quizzes, attending special courses and watching video tutorials. All options are designed to reinforce and grow knowledge and skills.

The program will give advocates the greatest flexibility in what they do, and how and when they do it – online at home, or at a conference or seminar. It is tailored to suit practitioners at each level in either welfare or compensation.

Advocates will discover that acquiring points won't take more time out of their schedule than the old system, and they will be able to say with confidence to their insurer, to their authorising organisation and to their clients that their knowledge is 'current'.

The CPD program is expected to be rolled out in the first half of 2018. There will be a comprehensive program of information sessions and training programs before the system comes online. There'll be more information about CPD in the next issue of *Advocacy News*.

Brian Warren
ATDP CPD Program Coordinator



7. Online resources for advocates

There are a number of ways that Military Advocates can stay up-to-date with changes that may affect their clients.



CLIK

The Consolidated Library of Information and Knowledge (CLIK) contains legislative, policy and reference material used by DVA staff in providing service to clients of the Department of Veterans' Affairs: <http://clik.dva.gov.au/>

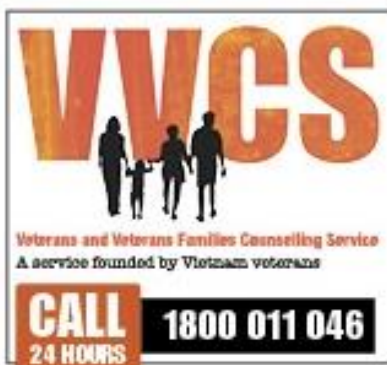
Recent changes are listed on the Updates page: <http://clik.dva.gov.au/updates>

DVA updates

DVA news and media releases are posted on the DVA website: www.dva.gov.au/about-dva/news-and-updates

At Ease

DVA's *At Ease* website provides a wide range of mental health resources, information and assistance for the veteran and defence communities, as well as for health professionals: <http://at-ease.dva.gov.au>



VVCS

The Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) provides free, confidential, nation-wide counselling and support for war and service-related mental health conditions, relationship and family counselling, and group programs: www.vvcs.gov.au

Repatriation Medical Authority

The latest news and decisions from the Repatriation Medical Authority, including about Statements of Principles, can be found here: www.rma.gov.au/what-s-new




The Orderly Room

The Orderly Room is the ATDP information source. It brings together news from a range of sources, including DVA, Defence, VITA, the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS), the Repatriation Medical Authority, and other relevant government agencies: www.theorderlyroom.blogspot.com.au



8. ATDP contact details

ATDP Regional Managers and Administration Support Officers (ASOs)

Region 1 (Qld & NT)	Region 2 (NSW, ACT & WA)	Region 3 (Vic, Tas & SA)
 <p data-bbox="331 958 544 1048">Peter McNamara Manager rm1@atdp.org.au</p>	 <p data-bbox="695 965 908 1055">Allan Thomas Manager rm2@atdp.org.au</p>	 <p data-bbox="1054 965 1267 1055">David Rye Manager rm3@atdp.org.au</p>
<p data-bbox="323 1093 549 1216">Tamsin McGuin ASO aso1@atdp.org.au (07) 3358 5845</p>	<p data-bbox="687 1093 912 1216">Brian Morelli ASO aso2@atdp.org.au (02) 9488 7667</p>	<p data-bbox="1046 1093 1272 1216">Philip Boys ASO aso3@atdp.org.au (08) 8290 0449</p>

General enquiries:

ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au

Websites:

Advocacy Training and Development Program – www.atdp.org.au

Department of Veterans' Affairs – www.dva.gov.au

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