



DVA Advocacy News

Issue 1, 2016

Welcome to the first issue of *DVA Advocacy News*. This newsletter will keep you up-to-date with what's happening in the transition from TIP (Training and Information Program) to ATDP – the Advocacy Training and Development Program.

Training update

The ATDP is in the process of seeking accreditation of its training program from the Australian Skills Quality Authority. This means accredited ATDP Advocates will meet national quality assurance requirements so veterans and their families can be sure of receiving a high standard of advocacy services – irrespective of where they live, when they served or the complexity of their needs.

In ATDP, the advocate's on-the-job training and mentoring will take place in the offices of their ex-service organisation (ESO) or a Veterans Centre. The ATDP organisation (a partnership between the Department of Veterans' Affairs, ESOs and the Department of Defence) manages the formal coursework, the accreditation process, and the training of ATDP Mentors, Assessors and Trainers.

The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process will assess a TIP advocate's experience and knowledge so they can be accredited as an ATDP Advocate. This process is being piloted to make sure it is as effective and simple as possible. Advocates will be able to apply for RPL early next year, once the Australian Skills Quality Authority has approved the ATDP courses. Workshops for ATDP mentors, trainers and assessors are also being piloted and tested. ESOs will be invited to nominate experienced advocates to participate when the workshops and processes are finalised.

Courses & workshops

During the transition to ATDP, a small number of TIP courses will continue to be offered to meet ongoing training needs in the ESO community while ATDP courses are being developed and tested. There are some Level 2, 3 and 4 TIP courses available, as well as a limited number of Level 1 refresher courses.

Currently ATDP Level 1 and Level 2 training is available. To start your training, an ESO needs to nominate you. There are also some prerequisites such as computer and communication skills. See *Selection of Advocacy Trainees* on the ATDP website for more information: www.atdp.org.au

How to nominate for training:

	ATDP www.atdp.org.au	TIP www.tip.org.au
Level 1	The ESO completes the ATDP nomination form by choosing the link for <i>Compensation Advocate Level 1</i> or <i>Welfare Advocate Level 1</i> on the ATDP website . The candidate and mentor will then receive further instructions.	To apply for TIP Level 1 refresher courses see the options for your state on the TIP website .
Level 2	If you have completed ATDP Level 1 training you can progress to ATDP Level 2. The nomination process is the same as for ATDP Level 1 courses – see the ATDP website .	If you have completed a TIP Level 1 training course you can progress to TIP Level 2. TIP courses are listed on the TIP website . (After completing TIP Level 2 you can gain accreditation as an ATDP Advocate through the Recognition of Prior Learning process.)

How to nominate for training / continued ...

	ATDP www.atdp.org.au	TIP www.tip.org.au
Level 3	N/A	See the TIP website for <i>Advocate Level 3 – VRB</i> courses in your state.
Level 4	N/A	There is a <i>Level 4 – Tribunal Advocacy Course</i> scheduled for November 2016 in Canberra. ESOs have been invited to nominate participants for this training.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who decides if I can do ATDP training?

Your ESO nominates you for training and ensures that you meet the prerequisites. See *Selection of Advocacy Trainees* on the [ATDP website](http://www.atdp.org.au). The ATDP Regional Management Group for your area will ensure there are sufficient face-to-face courses to meet demand. There is more information about Regional Management Groups and their contact details on the DVA website: www.dva.gov.au

What if the course I want to do is not listed on the website?

If the course you want to do is not listed on [TIP website](http://www.tip.org.au), please contact your ATDP Interim Regional Manager to let them know about the training you are seeking. Contact details are on the [DVA website](http://www.dva.gov.au).

Who pays for my training?

DVA covers the costs of courses and accreditation. ESOs pay for any travel expenses involved in advocates attending courses.

When can I have my TIP training recognised for ATDP accreditation?

TIP advocates need to go through a Recognition of Prior Learning process to become an accredited ATDP Advocate. This process is currently being piloted. Once feedback has been consolidated and procedures finalised, ESOs will be asked to nominate advocates to undertake the process.

I'd like to be an ATDP Mentor – what's involved?

ESOs are encouraged to identify experienced members for this role so there will be sufficient advocates to meet the needs of all veterans who can benefit from their advice. Mentors do not require accreditation, but ATDP will offer training to support them in their role. The mentoring course is currently being piloted. When it is ready, ESOs will be asked to nominate advocates for the training.

I've heard the ATDP courses have already started – have I missed out?

No! The courses you may have heard about are small pilot programs to test the training and identify gaps. Once the courses are finalised they will be rolled out nationally, and you will be notified through your ESO and this newsletter.

If you have any more questions, comments or suggestions about ATDP, please send me an email at ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au

Please share this newsletter with anyone you know who may be interested, and let me know if you would like to be added or removed from this email list by contacting me at ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au

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