



Advocacy News

Issue 2, November 2016

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

This edition focuses on recognition of prior learning and mentoring.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is RPL and when is it happening?

The ATDP recognises that there are many well-trained and experienced advocates supporting veterans and their families. The process by which advocates have these skills and knowledge assessed to enable ATDP accreditation is 'recognition of prior learning' (RPL). The ATDP is making the RPL process as simple as possible.

RPL at Level 2 (Compensation and Welfare) involves attending a one-day program where you bring along information and records of your advocacy work and TIP training. You will be invited to discuss your experience with the assessors, and you will complete an 'open book' quiz. You can bring any reference material you normally use and you will have access to the internet if you wish to use it to help you answer the questions.

RPL for Levels 1, 3 and 4 will be available in 2017. Level 3 and 4 Compensation Advocates should apply for Level 2 RPL now as it is a prerequisite for applying for RPL at Level 3 or 4.

How do I apply for an RPL program?

To apply for Level 2 RPL, please fill out the online form here: www.atdp.org.au/applications/eois.php This will help us to plan programs for each location.

RPL for Levels 1, 3 and 4 will be available towards the middle of 2017, and you will be notified as soon as registrations open.

What's involved in being a mentor?



Mentors are experienced Welfare or Compensation Advocates. Their role is to guide a trainee advocate through their Level 1 and/or Level 2 training, and record their progress. How the guidance is delivered is worked out between the mentor and their 'mentee'. The ESO may provide the on-the-job learning and the mentor may just be available to answer questions, or the mentor may guide their mentee through all aspects of their training.

To assist mentors with their important work there is a one-day mentoring program. This covers what mentoring is and why it is a key part of the ATDP. This includes the mentor's

role and responsibilities; how to develop and support your mentee; and how to record their progress. This mentor training is not an accredited program but it is being initially offered in conjunction with a one-day Level 2 RPL session. This means mentors will be accredited as an ATDP Level 2 Compensation or Welfare Advocate at the same time as doing their mentoring training.

How do I apply for a mentoring program?

To apply for a mentoring program, please fill out the online form here:

www.atdp.org.au/applications/eois.php

There are some programs being held this year and there will be more in the new year. Priority is being given to people who are currently mentoring trainees. Filling out the form helps us to plan sessions for each location. So far more than 150 advocates have applied to do a mentoring program.

Do I need to be in the same location as my mentee?

No, you do not need to be in the same location as your mentee. Mentoring can be done by phone, email or any other method that suits both parties. Even so, observation of some activities outlined in the workbooks is easiest done face-to-face. It is expected that at some point during the training the ESO would arrange for the mentor to visit the mentee or vice versa. As the Regional Management Groups are established, local arrangements can be worked out in each region.

Update

Regional Management Groups (RMGs): Applications for RMG manager, member and administrative service officer positions have been received. All applicants will be notified of the outcome. A selection panel for the Regional Manager positions has been established, which will make recommendations to the ATDP Strategic Governance Board shortly. We expect to have these manager positions finalised by the end of the year.

Roadmap

See where we're up to on our ATDP journey on the next page.

Contact us

If you have any 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

For more information about ATDP, visit the DVA website (www.dva.gov.au) and search for 'advocacy training'.

Caroline Quinn

Communications Manager



**Advocacy Training and
Development Program**

Department of Veterans' Affairs



OUR ATDP JOURNEY

