



Advocacy News

Issue 4, March 2017

Welcome to the fourth issue of *Advocacy News*. This newsletter keeps 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.

In this edition we introduce you to a former TIP Trainer who's now a big supporter of ATDP and we answer more of your Frequently Asked Questions.

TIP versus ATDP – A TIP Trainer's Perspective

“Ultimately the change will be beneficial for veterans and their families.”

Bill Greenwood is the Pensions and Welfare Officer at the Dubbo RSL Sub Branch, and he was a TIP Trainer in the welfare stream.

Bill attended an ATDP pilot workshop in Sydney in September last year. He tested some of the new ATDP courses, including recognition of prior learning (RPL) and assessor training.

The workshop was run by Major Training Services, which is the registered training organisation ATDP has contracted to set up and manage the accreditation of the new training programs.

About the workshop, Bill said, “Honestly, I felt out of my depth for the first day or two, but the MTS team were so professional and so good at putting me at ease that my concerns soon disappeared.



Bill Greenwood
Dubbo RSL Sub Branch

What's an 'assessor'?

The role of the assessor is a new one under ATDP. Assessors have specialised training so they can assess candidates for ATDP accreditation.

“I got so much out of both the RPL and the assessor process. Now I even have the confidence to take on training in the compensation stream, which I didn't think I could manage before attending the workshop.

“Change is always a worry for most people, but I'm now 100 per cent behind ATDP.

“The main advantage of is the accreditation. That's what's needed and expected in this day and age. I think ultimately the change will be beneficial for veterans and their families. I'm quite excited about it.”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will the dates for ATDP courses be advertised?

ATDP courses are arranged differently to the way TIP courses were scheduled. ATDP courses are planned for when they are needed. Under TIP, in some states courses were set at the beginning of the year or mid-year based on a 'best guess' of what training was needed. It was then a case of keeping our fingers crossed that enough people would enrol!

This is how courses are scheduled under ATDP:

Level 1 and Level 2	Level 3 and Level 4
<p>Mentors report back to ATDP when their mentee has completed each section in the Level 1 and Level 2 training courses. This means their regional management group (RMG) can keep track of the progress of each candidate.</p> <p>The RMG can then estimate when candidates are likely to be ready for the final, face-to-face part of their course – called 'consolidation'. When there are enough candidates in a city, town or region to run a consolidation course, a session will be scheduled.</p> <p>In this way courses are only arranged when they are needed. This means candidates can progress with their training when they're ready, and RMGs aren't spending time and resources running sessions that aren't needed.</p>	<p>You will be advised of the process for applying for ATDP Level 3 and Level 4 training when these courses are up and running.</p> <p>This is expected to be in the second half of 2017. Keep an eye on this newsletter for details.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Mentor Training</p> <p>For RPL and mentor training, candidates register their interest through the ATDP website.</p> <p>Once there are sufficient numbers to run RPL and/or Mentor Training in a city, town or region, a workshop will be scheduled.</p>

Why do Level 3 and Level 4 advocates have to do Level 2 RPL?

Level 2 RPL is a prerequisite for Level 3 and Level 4 RPL. However, there is no requirement for Level 3 and Level 4 advocates to do Level 2 RPL now, but it will save you time later on. RPL for Levels 3 and 4 should be available in the second half of this year.

The reason why Level 2 RPL is required is that it is even more important for the higher level advocates to have a good understanding of current DVA processes and legislation. This is the knowledge that is tested in RPL for Level 2 Compensation, so it is also a part of RPL for the higher levels.

Apart from speeding up your Level 3 and Level 4 RPL, another advantage of enrolling in a Level 2 RPL and mentoring workshop is that it will enable advocates to support junior advocates.

Contact us

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

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

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

In the next issue: Are TIP courses still running?