

VETERANS' INDEMNITY AND TRAINING ASSOCIATION INC

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An open letter from the VITA President

RE: VITA coverage of TIP-trained practitioners

The Veterans' Indemnity and Training Association Inc. (VITA) provides access to professional indemnity insurance at an affordable cost for members of ex-service organisations and incorporated groups who provide advice and advocacy services to members of the ex-service community about government pensions, benefits and community support services.

VITA supports and recognises advocates under the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) and the Training and Information Program (TIP). These programs deliver the training and currency needed for advocates to meet the requirements of the professional indemnity insurer.

VITA has previously issued an Open Letter stating that professional indemnity insurance coverage would continue to be available to TIP-trained practitioners until such time as all who wish to transfer into the ATDP stream via the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) pathway have had ample opportunity to do so.

The letter also stated that eventually cover would have to be curtailed as practitioners are required to maintain currency but, as TIP refresher training is no longer available, TIP practitioners cannot update their training without ATDP accreditation.

RPL opportunities have been available for some time for Level 2 practitioners, are now available for Level 1 practitioners, and will be offered soon for Level 3 and 4 advocates. Consequently, VITA advises the following cut-off dates for coverage of TIP-trained advocates not progressing through to the ATDP stream:

Level 1 and 2: Cover will not be available beyond 30 June 2019

Level 3 and 4: Cover will not be available beyond 31 December 2021

VITA believes these dates will provide continuing opportunities for RPL transition for those intending to do so, while allowing those not intending to transfer to continue to practice while a body of ATDP accredited advocates is built up to meet ongoing client demand.

Yours sincerely

Dennis Mitchell

President

7 December 2017