**How does ATDP differ from TIP?**

Under TIP training, a practitioner undertook a course of training which was somewhat random and without clearly defined outcomes. The formal TIP training was also largely unstructured. A person could choose courses at random and having completed any level 2 course, could claim to be trained to level 2. In the claims stream, that level 2 may only apply to one of the acts administering veteran entitlements.

Neither TIP nor the ATDP can “teach” the required knowledge nor have the learner acquire all the skills required to be an effective advocate. That continuous learning and skills acquisition comes from “doing”. The “doing” occurs in the practise environment. What a training organisation can do is define and document the learning experiences to which person should be exposed in order to gain the required skills and knowledge. The acquired level can then be assessed at the end of the process.

When that person began to practise as a pension officer, the additional skills and knowledge acquired, depended on the environment in which they practised. The practise environment and the additional learning was beyond the control and management of TIP.

There are two significant changes which distinguish ATDP from TIP.

- The practise experiences to which a learner must be exposed is documented and a validation process established to ensure that everyone is exposed to the practise experiences required and
- All learners will undertake a single formal learning pathway in their stream to ensure that everyone who reaches a certain exit point in the training has met the minimum standard required.

**Can a TIP trained person transition to the ATDP?**

Yes! A process of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be put in place to ensure that anyone trained under the TIP system has their training and previous practise experiences assessed. Where there may be deficiencies in the formal training or workplace experiences, an individual learning plan can be formulated to endure the “gaps” are filled. The person then would be certified to the appropriate ATDP level in the appropriate stream.

**I am a new volunteer. Can I elect to train under the TIP structure?**

No! All new entrants to advocacy training after 1st July 2016 must train under the ATDP model.

**When can I start training under ATDP?**

New entrants to the program can apply on or after 1st July 2016. Once the workplace experience books have been developed, they will be available to all new entrants. Mentors or ESO supervisors will provide workplace experience as required by the books. Once you have been exposed to all the required experiences, you will be eligible to undertake formal training. In both streams this will be an online unit or units, depending on whether welfare or claims stream.
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Face-to-face consolidation training will be available after you have met all the above requirements.

I started under TIP. Can I continue?

Yes! The range of TIP courses will continue to be available for some time. You can continue to choose the course you want provided you meet its pre-requisites. After a yet to be determined period, TIP training alone may not meet the standard required at that time. It will then be necessary to undertake the RPL process and transition to the ATDP standard.

I recently started under TIP but I think I might do better under ATDP. Can I transfer?

Yes! Your recent TIP courses will be used as a part of the formal training process but you will be required to obtain a workplace experience book and meet the requirements contained in that. Once those requirements are met you can then undertake the remainder of the formal learning.

My ESO conducts training. Do I have to undertake ATDP formal training?

The competency based training process assumes that learners acquire their skills and knowledge from a variety of sources. Under the ATDP model it is assumed that 70% of the skills and knowledge acquired comes from “doing”; 20% comes from other informal learning such as a mentor, while only 10% comes from formal training.

Any training conducted by ESOs to support their learners in the process is welcomed and contributes to the 90% gained outside of the formal learning process.

It must be understood though, that the 10% of learning supplied by ATDP formal training, also includes assessments of the other 90%. ATDP then certifies that an individual has met the required standard for a certain level. It is therefore necessary that every learner undertakes the ATDP formal learning and assessment process.

I'm TIP trained and I don't want to transfer to the ATDP model. Will refresher training still be available?

For a while, yes! The ATDP model, though, has a requirement for continuous learning and improvement. Practitioners, including those trained under the TIP model will need to show how they meet currency requirements should any litigation occur. Remember, it is your ESO which carries the risk.

ATDP certification may also be required in the future by agencies outside the control of ATDP.

I've been nominated as a mentor for a new learner. What does this mean?

The role of the mentor is fundamental to the success of the ATDP program. It is assumed that having been nominated as a mentor, you are highly experienced as either a welfare or claims practitioners and have a good knowledge of the TIP curriculum. At the outset, we will only be considering practitioners under training and through to level 1.
Once you have been nominated, you will be contacted by ATDP and asked to undertake an RPL process which validates your experiences and verifies that your skills and knowledge meet the requirements for those of a mentor to level 2 standard. This may not happen immediately but should occur before any of your mentees begin level 2 training.

I don’t want to be a mentor!

That’s fine. We will ask the learner’s ESO to find another suitable mentor or ATDP may find one.