Transitional arrangements for Claims Advocate (level 1) training.

**Introduction**
The Advocacy Training blueprint, approved by ESORT and signed off by the Minister for Veterans Affairs in 2015, calls for a single training pathway for Advocacy Training and Development.

At its meeting of 12 - 14 April 2016 approved the proposal tendered by the Training & Development Team to implement all facets of ATDP training from 1st July 2016.

Some of the implications of this decision are:

- No new entry level nominations are to be accepted under the TIP platform after 30th June 2015.
- All TIP level 2 – 4 courses to remain in force and be available to practitioners who began their training under the TIP platform.
- TIP enhancement courses may continue to be delivered to level 1, 2 & 3 practitioners as requested.

At the time of writing, the T&D team has not received any recommendations as to a single Welfare Advocate (Level 1) training pathway.

There also needs to be a change in terminology so as not to confuse TIP courseware with that used by ATDP, even though it may be the same material in the initial implementation stage.

It is proposed that the term Course be applied to all the training leading to a pathway exit point. The term Unit be used to denote all the components of the formal training and the term module be used as the major topic area within a Unit.

The accompanying appendices indicate the manner in which the use of this terminology is proposed.

**Claims Advocate (Level 1) training.**
In order to be able to offer the formal training component of the level 1 at the earliest possible there are some transitional arrangements which can be adopted while work begins on those components for which there is no TIP equivalent. This involves the use of existing online courseware and the development of both a workplace experience diary and the face-to-face consolidation course which ends the formal training to the first pathway exit point.

A flowchart of the initial version is shown at appendix 1.

It is recognised that the existing online courseware has been designed to a different paradigm to that of the ATDP and as such should be modified as soon as possible to remove those modules which are not applicable to the role and task descriptors for a Claims Advocate Level 1. Once that has been
done, the face-to-face consolidation unit can also be amended to make it relevant to the preceding units.

The flowchart also indicates the sequence of study to be employed during the transitional phase.

The T & D group is requested to examine the documents and forward any (carefully considered) suggestions around the group.