



Advocacy Training and  
Development Program

# ATDP Update

## April 2021

### *Roger's view*

Hello again,

Time marches on !! And, so it seems does SARS-CoV-2. COVID-19 precautions continue to disrupt our programs necessitating constant monitoring of State health directives and flexibility in our planning. Last week's (22-28 March) outbreak in Brisbane necessitated some fancy footwork at short notice which was not helped by reports of an infected person holding a party attended by 25. Arrangements were put in place on Sunday to cancel travel and accommodation bookings for those attending the TAEDEL404 – Mentor in the Workplace program, which was scheduled to run at the DVA Offices in Brisbane on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March. The cancellation finger was taken off the trigger when it was later announced that reports of the party were untrue. So, early Monday attendees were advised that unless there was bad news at the morning Press Conference the program would be going ahead. Alas, one of the ATDP team was already enroute to Brisbane when word came through of the planned lockdown at 1700 (Brisbane time). Quick work by DVA's travel organization and Emma Keogh of our project support staff in Canberra managed to secure return bookings before the plane landed in Brisbane thereby avoiding the lockdown and subsequent fourteen days quarantine on return home.



There is always a 'knock-on' effect when a program is disrupted and in this case our efforts to provide higher level training and qualifications to senior mentors have been put back a couple of months as proposed mentoring programs in Sydney, at the end of April and Melbourne, have had to be postponed too. We continue to watch the Brisbane situation as there is a Level 2 Compensation C&A programmed for 13-15 April which could be impacted. Of course, the Program Support team are investigating the possibility of relocating the program to Coolongatta/Teed Heads, should that prove necessary, rather than postponing it.

### **The Importance of Accurate Information**

I was recently forwarded a copy of a document circulating in advocacy circles and being attributed to an Advocate of many years' experience. A number of the statements it contained have convinced me of the need for a strong stand in support of the requirement for Continuing Professional Development. Some examples:

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*"The Defence Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988, this is the Act that covers all veterans until the 1 July 2004"*

The author was no doubt referring to the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988 (DRCA) and its predecessor Acts back to 3 January 1949 . While the Act is incorrectly identified it is the contention that it covers all veterans until 1 July 2004 that is significantly misleading as Operational (Warlike) service was specifically excluded from the Act's coverage until April 1994. Or this:

*"This [MRCA 2004] is the new Act and is a combination of The Veteran (sic) Entitlements Act and the Defence Rehabilitation and Compensation Act and totally replaces both those Acts."*

DRCA (and its predecessors) and the VEA have not been 'totally replaced'. They are still applicable for claims by veterans (including serving members) with the relevant eligibility.

I have included these examples to show how easy it is for any of us to make basic mistakes when it comes to compensation advocacy. It is an area that, in the interests of the veterans we assist, we need to check, double check and check again that our words mean what we intended.

### **TAEDEL404 – Mentor in the Workplace**

Earlier, I mentioned the need to postpone the Mentoring program planned for Brisbane this week. The TAEDEL404 Unit of Competency has been in place as a UoC in the Training and Education Training Package and 16 other Training Packages for many years. It also forms part of many Qualifications and Skill Sets. Back in March 2020 the CFMG approved the contextualization of TAEDEL404 for ATDP use but as you would guess COVID-19 intervened. When it was realized that a face-to-face pilot program might not be possible for quite some time an on-line version of the program was developed and piloted in July 2020. This week's postponed program was to be the first face-to-face pilot before running the program for senior mentors in order that they could hold a formal mentoring qualification and pass that knowledge on to other mentors in their Region as well as provide assistance when necessary. Plans are presently underway to get back on track in May given the effective 'short' month coming up with Easter and ANZAC Day. We will get news out as soon as we can.

### **What next ?**

In April we have a Level 2 Compensation Consolidation and Assessment programmed for Brisbane from 13-15 April and we are looking at the possibility of an alternative venue for that should the Brisbane COVID-19 precautions prove too restrictive. The Support Team are also looking at programming an RPL or a C&A program in Sydney at the end of the month if there is enough interest.

Next month we are looking forward to the Government's responses to the Cornall and Productivity Commission Reports which they have had for nearly two years now. Given the

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pressure the budget is under after all the spending to ameliorate the effects of the lockdowns during 2020 I keep telling myself not to expect too much in the announcements.

As we think of those affected by the recent East Coast floods please ..

Keep safe; and keep your distance,

**Roger**



## National Training Manager Report

### Screening of potential trainees

Since its inception, ATDP has required that ESOs select candidates for training in accordance with the Guidelines for the Selection of Candidates. This document is available from the ATDP website. In recent times I have begun to wonder just how many people nominating new trainees have actually read the document and applied it before nominating someone.



I recently applied to undertake some training through a different RTO to the one with which ATDP is partnered. That part is not important; what is important is the process adopted by the RTO to “screen” new students. Every new student undertakes a telephone interview scheduled to last 45 minutes, before they are even given the formal application form. How many nominating people in ESOs have a face to face meeting with a prospective candidate just to ascertain if they have the foundation skills and the desire to contribute as an advocate, before nominating them for ATDP training?

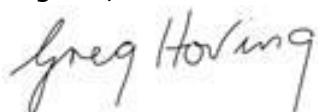
Some new nominations are being received from some ESOs who appear to have a large number of candidates but close examination shows that many of these people are not progressing with their learning while new trainees continue to be added. It is in everyone’s interest to ensure that we endeavour to get trainees who will go the course.

### Covid disruptions

Another outbreak has again impacted ATDP. Each time we have to cancel a program we have to find another week in which it can be delivered. That further delays other programs we would like to schedule. We currently have 34 compensation and 27 wellbeing people ready for assessment.

Until next time.

Regards,



## Region 1 Update – Qld, NT

Future programs for March through June include RPL; L1 & 2 Compensation; and L1 Wellbeing. Details are on the ATDP website, which should be checked regularly.

Feedback indicates that Mentors have been using both the CPD Modules and access to the e-learning modules that their mentees are using, which will improve these relationships. A set of Lead Mentor Pilot Programs will be held over the next few months, at the end of March for Region 1. These people will be accessible to provide advice and support to mentors, it is not intended that they take on mentoring training path candidates directly, but rather help others that have nominated as mentors with issues and/or problem solving. A list of contacts in Region 1 will be provided in the next Update. This is a step in consolidating the work of mentors and will provide human resources throughout Communities of Practice. The use of electronic means to communicate throughout the Region is increasing and providing the “new face-to-face” medium.

As soon as DVA announces its new approach to advocacy, it is hoped that support-based activity can be generated throughout the Region in which I will hold local meetings of advocates to clarify as many issues as possible, and we all may be able to regain the sense of working together.

Regards,

***Dr Bob Grandin***

A/g Manager, Regional Implementation Group 1

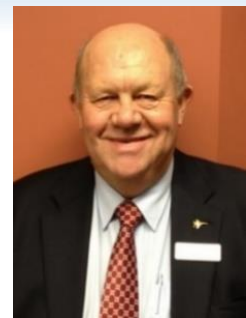


## Region 2 Update – NSW, ACT, WA

### **Training**

As reported last month, a successful Level 1 Consolidation and Assessment Program was held in Ballina, over the period 23 to 25 March 2021 inclusive, with six candidates participating. Result, six more (probably, I did not do all the assessments) Level One advocates have been cleared to continue their progression along the Training Pathway.

This week there was a TAEDL404 Mentoring Pilot Program planned for Brisbane, but I will leave others to explain their perspective on events. I was to attend the program, and dutifully arranged an early morning flight to Brisbane, blissfully oblivious to the unfolding events in Queensland. Seventy kilometres before top of descent into Brisbane the cabin crew advised me that Brisbane was going into lock down at 1700 hrs. Oops, that was not part of the ATDP training plan.



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As an ex-military pilot, the Principal of War – “Flexibility is the key to Success”, came to mind and I started to consider the available alternatives to resolve the situation I was facing. My deliberations were unnecessary because following landing, when I turned my telephone off “Aeroplane Mode” there was a message from the CFMG Chair and ATDP Travellers advising flight details for my return flight to Canberra in two hours’ time. All I had to do was to walk 200 metres airside to the Qantas Lounge and await my flight. Well done Team!!

Despite the 12-hour travel day, I am back in Canberra and wish to publicly thank all those ATDP team members involved with revising my planned and unscheduled travel on the day.

### **Regional Implementation Group 2 Meeting, 22 March 2021**

A wide range of issues was discussed by participants at the video conference meeting and the Minutes of the meeting will be available on request if anyone would like a copy. Please direct all requests through me.

Despite the impact of Covid-19, most members report continuing interest in ATDP training, although many on the Training Pathway are being adversely affected by the slow DVA resolutions of claims, thereby directly impacting completion of Milestones in the Workplace Experience Log. I assured attendees that the issue has been elevated to the highest echelons of DVA management and satisfactory resolutions are actively being pursued within the Department.

Since the last three meetings have been conducted via video link, the next planned meeting in June will be face-to-face if at all possible.

### **Regional Manager Activities for the Period**

- Attended the Consolidation and Assessment Level 1 Program, Ballina 23 to 25 March 2021
- DVA Train eLearning Modules are currently undergoing revision and update; and I
- Reviewed the new Module “Reconsiderations and Reviews”, and
- Reviewed the new Module “Statement of Principles.”

I am always ready, willing, and available to assist training progress where I can do so, and I encourage personal contact if I can help in any way. As many of you may have heard me say, *“Unless I am aware of a problem, there is no problem!”*

Regards,

***Ian Thompson OAM***

Manager, Regional Implementation Group 2

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## Region 3 Update – Vic, SA, Tas

ATDP activity throughout March has continued at a steady pace.

COVID outbreaks have disrupted planning and caused at least one program to be cancelled and rescheduled. I suspect the uncertainty being caused by COVID will continue for some time yet. ATDP will continue to adapt and I am hopeful that the two programs scheduled for Melbourne in May will go ahead.

I am particularly pleased at the number of Statements of Attainment that have been issued recently.

For mentees, when you are making a Work Experience Log (WEL) entry ensure that you address the key points of the milestone. You must indicate what you have learnt and any difficulties you have encountered. This includes any DVAttrain eLearning units. Simply saying you have completed a unit is insufficient.

For mentors, when you are making your WEL entry, in addition to your general comments, you should address any shortcomings and how they were resolved.

That is all from me this month. Keep safe and well.

***Brian Milner***

Manager, Regional Implementation Group



## Continuing Professional Development

CPD is approaching the end of its third year and if you have not already completed your obligation for this year or have not started CPD it is time to complete this important milestone. You have up until the 30 June to earn your 15 CPD points, which is the minimum required to achieve currency.

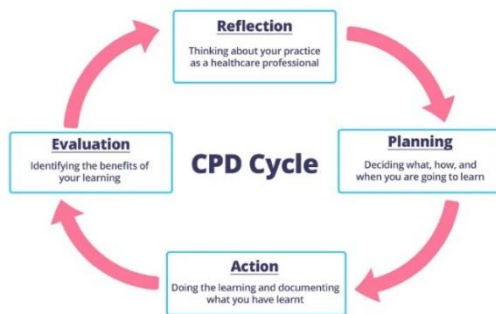
If you have been enrolled in the program since 1 July 2018 and don't earn at least 15 points by 30 June 2021, you will be considered Not Current and will be required to again have your skills and knowledge assessed in order to demonstrate competency against the Course in Military Advocacy Wellbeing or Compensation Level 2 standards. This will mean that you will need to complete an additional Verification of Competency assessment. If this is required, your authorising ESO will need to meet any travel or accommodation costs associated with your assessment.

Not being current with CPD may also have implications for professional indemnity insurance arrangements or other matters specific to the operation or rules of ESOs. If this occurs, unfortunately, the ATDP will need to remove your entry from the Accredited Advocate Register (AAR) until you have successfully completed the remedial Verification of Competency assessment,





or your authorising ESO can demonstrate that they will continue to hold suitable professional indemnity cover from 1 July 2021 other than VITA.



The fourth year of CPD commences on 1 July 2021. To date most Advocates have completed CPD and a smaller percentage are almost there, this is great going and we are slowly but surely gaining ground. However, this also means that there are still around 35 Advocates who have not yet started CPD and ATDP will be advising Advocates in these groups individually, as well as their ESOs. If you haven't earned 15 points, what can you do about this?

If you are having problems completing your CPD, or even starting, there is a lot of assistance available. People, such as Advocates you may know, who have either started or completed CPD, Mentors, Regional Mentors and the CPD team itself, especially the program support officers for your area. All you need to do is make a phone call, send an email or ask for assistance. We would much prefer to send you an email which says, 'Well done' and that you are 'Current' for another year.

In summary, I would like to say thank you to all those Advocates who have achieved their CPD targets for this year and over the past three (3) years and made it an integral part of your professional advocacy. We also offer strong encouragement to those who are not quite there and need to do more work, keep going, and for those who have not yet started, to make a concerted effort to do so to remain current.

**New!** There are now a number of Podcasts on a variety of veteran related issues in the CPD workspace under Webinars and Podcasts. They are worth 2 CPD points each and we will add to the list as others become available.

Further help? If you are having problems in meeting your CPD obligations or you have any general questions relating to CPD, please contact the CPD Team at: [cpd@atdp.org.au](mailto:cpd@atdp.org.au)

Regards,  
**Brett Warner**  
CPD Team Leader

## Letters to the Editor



Do you have a '**Letter to the Editor**' about advocacy? The Update and Advocacy News are wanting your stories to tell...

If you would like to submit a letter or article please send it to: [ATDP.COMMUNICATIONS@dva.gov.au](mailto:ATDP.COMMUNICATIONS@dva.gov.au)

## Program Support Update

The year keeps getting busier! In March we had 35 nominations compared to 17 for both January and February. With every new nomination comes more enquiries and more support for the advocates and the ESOs.

The number of candidates who are currently on the 'Ready List' for a program has decreased over the previous month. We now have 40 candidates for RPL on the list. We have scheduled RPL programs to run in the major cities and will hopefully reduce this number in the coming weeks. The number of candidates waiting for a C&A program is slightly higher. No sooner have we cleared candidates off the list, more come onto it. We currently have 66 candidates on the C&A Ready List. Twenty seven of the candidates became ready this year.

In total, we have over 20 programs scheduled until June. This means a lot of work for the Program Support Officers in organising and supporting these events.

We will hopefully be uploading the new DRCA elearning modules shortly. We apologise for the delay in getting it onto DVAttrain.

The PSOs continue to provide support services for advocates, ESOs and the in-house training team and are here to answer any enquiries you may have related to the ATDP program.

Many thanks

**Elizabeth Owen**

Program Support Team Leader



2021	
Month	Nominations
Jan	17
Feb	17
Mar	35

## IT Projects Update

*Blessen Babu* is the resident *ATDP IT specialist* and provides support to the National Training Manager, the CPD team and the Program Manager on multiple IT projects including the ATDP website, AAR, Online Management System and the CPD online portal.

**My ATDP priorities for the past month have been:**

1. The new Mentors modules are now active in the CPD workspace. To date, eleven modules have been completed for CPD points. Another 73 requests have been registered by the CPD team.





2. An email will be sent to Advocates and ESOs advising them of advocates who may not attain 15 points, or have not yet started CPD by 30 June 2021 and are at risk of becoming Not Current.
3. I have created a list of advocates who have changed their ESO and where it has not been recorded in the Accredited Advocate Register. ESO join date is a key factor to decide the advocates' CPD obligation start date.
4. I am progressing further changes to the Orderly Room blog which will be available in May.
5. The webinars modules in the CPD workspace has been changed. DVAttrain webinars have been replaced by PODCASTS and the OPAN webinars remain unchanged.

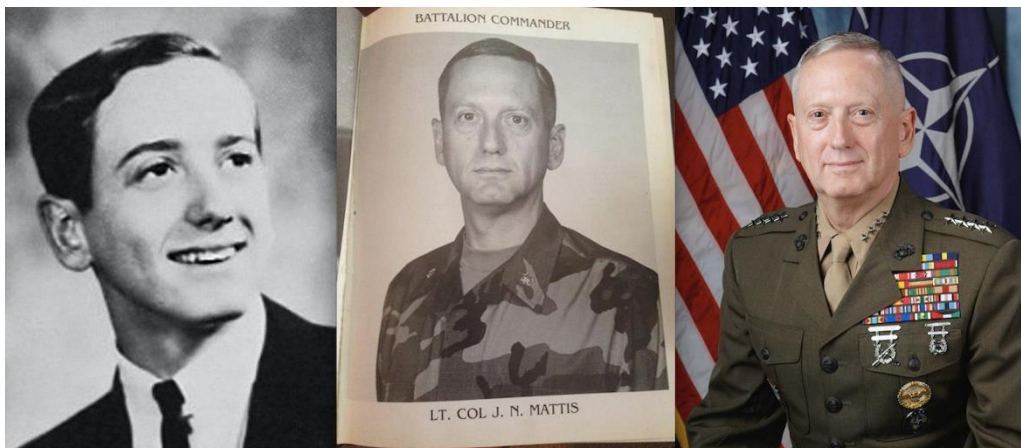
Regards,  
**Blessen**  
ATDP IT specialist

## Wayne's Words of Wisdom

This month's **Wayne's Words of Wisdom** comes from **James "Mad Dog" Mattis**.

*James Norman Mattis* is a retired United States Marine Corps four-star general who served as the 26th US Secretary of Defence from January 2017 to January 2019. During his 44 years in the Marine Corps, he commanded forces in the Persian Gulf War, the War in Afghanistan, and the Iraq War.

**"The most important six inches on the battlefield is between your ears."**



## ATDP Contacts

<b>ATDP Website</b>	<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://web.atdp.org.au/">https://web.atdp.org.au/</a>
	Information	<a href="mailto:info@atdp.org.au">info@atdp.org.au</a>
<b>ATDP Enquiries</b>	Enquiries	<a href="mailto:ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au">ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au</a>
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<b>ATDP National Training Manager (NTM)</b>	Greg Hoving	<a href="mailto:ntm@atdp.org.au">ntm@atdp.org.au</a>
<b>Continuing Professional Development (CPD) - Manager</b>	Brett Warner	<a href="mailto:cpd@atdp.org.au">cpd@atdp.org.au</a>
<b>Regional Manager (RM) 1 - Qld/NT</b>	Bob Grandin	<a href="mailto:rm1@atdp.org.au">rm1@atdp.org.au</a>
<b>Regional Manager (RM) 2 - NSW/WA/ACT</b>	Ian Thompson	<a href="mailto:rm2@atdp.org.au">rm2@atdp.org.au</a>
<b>Regional Manager (RM) 3 - Vic/SA/Tas</b>	Brian Milner	<a href="mailto:rm3@atdp.org.au">rm3@atdp.org.au</a>
<b>Program Support Team Leader SA time, 8.30-4.00, Mon-Fri</b>	Elizabeth Owen	<a href="mailto:psomanager@atdp.org.au">psomanager@atdp.org.au</a> 08 8290 0499 or 0484 093 016
<b>Region 1 Program Support Officer (PSO) SA time, 8.30-4.00, Mon-Fri</b>	Amanda Williams	<a href="mailto:pso1@atdp.org.au">pso1@atdp.org.au</a> 08 8290 0283 or 0484 820 620
<b>Region 2 Program Support Officer (PSO) EST time, 9.00-5.00, Mon-Fri</b>	Samone Mason	<a href="mailto:pso2@atdp.org.au">pso2@atdp.org.au</a> 02 6276 4828 or 0484 076 849
<b>Region 3 Program Support Officer (PSO) SA time, 8.30-4.00, Mon-Fri</b>	Phil Boys	<a href="mailto:pso3@atdp.org.au">pso3@atdp.org.au</a> 08 8290 0273 or 0484 594 791

## ATDP Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>AAR</b>	Accredited Advocate Register
<b>AP</b>	Authorised Person ( <i>within the AAR</i> )
<b>ATDP</b>	Advocacy Training and Development Program
<b>C&amp;A</b>	Consolidation and Assessment Program
<b>C1</b>	Compensation Advocate Level 1
<b>C2</b>	Compensation Advocate Level 2
<b>C3</b>	Compensation Advocate Level 3
<b>C4</b>	Compensation Advocate Level 4
<b>W1</b>	Wellbeing Advocate Level 1
<b>W2</b>	Wellbeing Advocate Level 2
<b>W3</b>	Wellbeing Advocate Level 3
<b>CoP</b>	Community of Practice
<b>ESO</b>	Ex-Service Organisation
<b>MTS</b>	Major Training Services ( <i>ATDP's RTO</i> )
<b>PSO</b>	Program Support Officer
<b>RIG</b>	Regional Implementation Group
<b>RM1, 2 and 3</b>	Regional Managers for the 3 ATDP Regional Implementation Groups
<b>RPL</b>	Recognition of Prior Learning
<b>RTO</b>	Registered Training Organisation
<b>SoA</b>	Statement of Attainment
<b>TIP</b>	Training and Information Program
<b>UoC</b>	Unit of Competency
<b>VITA</b>	Veterans Indemnity and Training Association <a href="https://web.atdp.org.au/docs/vita/VITABrochure2019.pdf">https://web.atdp.org.au/docs/vita/VITABrochure2019.pdf</a>
<b>WEL</b>	Workplace Experience Log