



Advocacy Training and
Development Program

ATDP Update August 2021

ATDP OVERVIEW

Dear advocates,

As the August edition of the *ATDP Update* goes to print there is more news of lockdowns and movement restrictions and the suddenness of the lockdowns and changes to them shows how quickly the situation can change. In recognition we would like to say a big thank you to Advocates as you continue to deliver support and services for veterans and their families during this difficult time. The ATDP closely monitors the changing state-based COVID-19 requirements, and will advise of any training cancellations and rescheduling of activities as soon as we can.

As you know there have been changes to the governance and management of the ATDP.

The governance and management of the ATDP program is moving from the current committee structure and transition to a new model, with the administration managed by DVA. This change will expand the scope for our partner Registered Training Organisation., who also continue to be responsible for the design, content, and delivery of the *Course in Military Advocacy*.

We would like to remind advocates that changes to the management structure of ATDP does not include any changes to the current ESO model of managing and delivering your volunteer and paid advocacy services: it is a change to training and development specifically. The Secretary of DVA, Ms Liz Cosson AM CSC, has recently provided an update to advocates about these changes and her letter is included below.

To assist with the work required to transition to the new arrangements, a short-term Working Group has been formed, which comprises DVA management, our RTO, and some members of the former Capability Framework Management Group.

In this month's edition of the Update we have an article about how CPD works and Elizabeth Owen our Program Support Manager, has included information on the rescheduling of programs due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Lastly, we would like to welcome Chris May back to the team. Chris replaces Wayne Stidston as the manager of the ATDP team in DVA, and was previously the manager of the program support team in Adelaide. Chris brings his knowledge, experience and abundant enthusiasm to the ATDP, we wish Chris well in this role.

We look forward to bringing you more information about upcoming ATDP programs and initiatives in coming issues.

In the meantime all the best from the ATDP team.

DVA Secretary Message – ATDP Governance Changes

(Sent by email to advocates and stakeholders 20 July 2021)

Dear Colleagues

Recent news of changes to the governance of the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) was shared with the ESO Round Table, through the ATDP governance committees, on the ATDP website, and using the extensive distribution lists for the Advocacy News newsletter and the ATDP Update.



In recognition of the maturity of the ATDP and the need to place it on a sustainable footing to meet the future requirements of advocacy, the governance and management of the ATDP program will move from the current committee structure and transition to a new model, with the administration managed by DVA. This change will expand the scope for our partner Registered Training Organisation to take on the National Training Manager responsibilities and to support the Continuing Professional Development program. The Strategic Governance Board and Capability Management Framework Group are being dissolved as part of the changes. There will be a clearer legal underpinning for this specific program as a result – an issue raised in recent reviews.

I would like to thank all of those in the veteran community who volunteer or work to provide veterans and their families the help they need.

I especially want to thank the ESO volunteers who have chosen over the years to devote their time, energy, and experience to developing a training program for advocates and then to create the ATDP. Many of these volunteers continue to provide expert industry and training advice, and time away from their families to provide training, assessment, and development activities for current and future ESO advocates.

I have heard that some people in the ESO advocacy community are concerned that these changes will affect the advocacy services delivered by ESOs, and the role of volunteer advocates. I want to be very clear that this is not the intention.

The changes to the management of the ATDP do not include any changes to the current ESO model of managing and delivering their volunteer and paid advocacy services. The changes are to governance and management of training and development specifically. We wish to see the ATDP's current volunteer trainers and assessors continue to help trainee advocates achieve their qualifications for as long as suits them.

The changes will help ATDP continue into the future and ensure that the gains made by the volunteer ATDP governance committees continue to deliver benefits for veterans and their families through ESOs' advocacy services. ATDP's role is still to design and make available nationally consistent training courses and development activities for ESO advocates with a focus on what veterans and their families need.

ESO's can continue to nominate people for advocate training through ATDP.

ESO's will still provide wellbeing and compensation advocacy services at no charge to veterans and their families. ESO's established advocacy services many years ago, and this key principle has not changed.

DVA continues to support ESOs that provide advocacy services to veterans and their families. This support is from the training organised by the ATDP and through the BEST grant program to cover some of their costs.

To help share this message about the change in how the ATDP is managed, and what is not affected by this change, I encourage you to forward this information to your advocate networks and anyone you think might be interested in what is happening with the ATDP.

DVA is working with stakeholders get their expert advice on transitioning to the new governance arrangements. Day-to-day delivery of advocacy should not be impacted.

If you have any further questions about these changes please contact Carly Partridge who is the DVA Executive responsible for the ATDP by writing to Carly.Partridge@dva.gov.au. If you have any questions about the ATDP including training opportunities please contact ATDP.Enquiries@dva.gov.au.

Regards

Liz Cosson

Region 1 Update – Qld, NT

As most would realise there has been significant change to the management structures for ATDP, no SGB or CFMG. Discussions are currently being held between government and those who were and who are now responsible for the advocacy program. Regionally this does not create any change. The RTO is now managing the training and assessment and planning for C&A programs is in train and dates should be available on the website shortly.



There is a push from DVA to have some of the consolidation and assessment carried out online. This requires candidates to be computer ready and to have their portfolio of evidence electronically stored for sharing online. To maintain privacy, it will be necessary to have a veteran sign a form that they are happy for you to use their claim information, or you will need to redact any identifying information.

An issue with CPD that does not appear to be clear is that if an advocate is attending sessions that improve the capability to act as an advocate, the outcome can be registered for CPD points. Examples are first aid, mental health, or computer skills. Send a copy of the certificate and brief details of the course to the CPD team. It is also possible to claim CPD points for completing the DVAttrain online modules if you are not in the training pathway.

During times of transition, it is important that messages/stories that are circulating are accurate. I am happy to respond to queries that you may have. It is anticipated that there will be forums held in September by the RTO to get feedback about the *TAE10620NAT – Course in Military Advocacy* as part of the reaccreditation process. It is important that this feedback is received and I will pass nominations I receive through to ATDP or you can submit beneficial suggestions to ATDP.Communications@dva.gov.au

Regards,

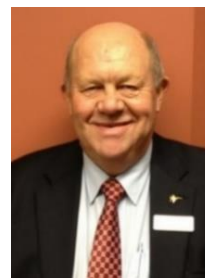
Dr Bob Grandin

A/g Manager, Regional Implementation Group 1

Region 2 Update – NSW, ACT, WA

Training

As you are aware significant changes have been made to the ATDP Management structure with the responsibilities formerly undertaken by the SGB and CFMG now being devolved to DVA and the RTO. Furthermore, the impact across Australia of COVID-19 (Delta) have caused significant disruption to us all and contributed to a large degree of uncertainty within the ATDP training environment.



Until we hear something definitive from the Department, my intention is to continue as usual with work-around solutions being implemented where required for unforeseen problems but generally there will be little impact on individual training aspects. I can assure all Advocates and candidates within Region 2 that the Training team is researching appropriate methods to continue with business as usual. Nevertheless, there may be some delays in resuming face-to-face Consolidation and Assessment activities for those candidates awaiting programs.

For Region 2, my reports reveal a relatively small number of people who will be affected by the assessment slow down.

	Ready for Training
MILADC001	8
MILADC002	2
MILADC003/5	0
MILADW001	2
MILADW001	1

Please advise me via email (rm2@atdp.org.au) if you have requirements for the briefing and further, if you have specific meetings you would like me to attend.

Regards,

Ian Thompson OAM

Manager, Regional Implementation Group 2

Region 3 Update – Vic, SA, Tas

COVID-19 is again causing some difficulties, particularly in relation to scheduling Consolidation and Assessment Programs.

Ivan Standen has retired from the roles of Regional Mentor, Presenter & Assessor and Subject Expert. All the positions relate to Wellbeing. Ivan has been involved with ATDP since its inception and with TIP for many years before. Ivan, from the ATDP team, thanks for your valued input and your wise counsel, and enjoy your well-earned spare time.



Candidates panelled for Consolidation & Assessment	Candidates waiting for Consolidation & Assessment	Advocates waiting for Recognition of Prior Learning
6x Wellbeing Level 1	6x Compensation Level 1 3x Compensation Level 2 3x Compensation Level 3 5x Wellbeing Level 1 5x Wellbeing Level 2	1x Compensation Level 2 1x Compensation Level 3 1x Wellbeing Level 2
Mentor Notifications	New Enrolments	Archived
8x eLearning 5x C&A Ready	7x Compensation Level 1 2x Compensation Level 3	1x Compensation Level 3 Training 1x Wellbeing Level 2 Accredited
SOA Issued	Program Attendance	
1x Compensation Level 2 (RPL)	Nil	

Remain safe and well.

Brian Milner

Manager, Regional Implementation Group 3

Program Support Update

The ATDP Program Support staff are always available to answer your questions and to help with any aspect of Program Support.

We have been thrown out of kilter a little with the COVID restrictions across the States and have unfortunately had to cancel some of the upcoming programs. We are doing our best to meet the needs of ready candidates and more information about upcoming programs will be released soon. Keep an eye out on the front page of the website for upcoming programs.

Nominations for 2021 so far

This year has been very busy for the team. Please see a list showing the number of nominations we have received per month since the beginning of the year. This shows that ESOs are still actively participating in the ATDP program and are continuing to put forth trainees.

The ATDP Accredited Advocate Register (AAR)

Make sure you log in into the AAR at least once every 6 months to check your details. Add/remove advocates as appropriate and check your contact details are still the same. This will ensure you remain current and that your ESO will display on the results search in the AAR.

2021 Month	Nominations
January	16
February	17
March	37
April	18
May	34
June	22
July	27

The same ATDP Program Support staff are available to answer your questions and to help with any aspect of the Program Support for these upcoming programs.

Many thanks,

Elizabeth Owen

Program Support Team Leader

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:

- The points and the status display of CPD has been adjusted to display the next 3-year rolling period.
- The CPD eLearning activity for Mentors has been updated with;
 - GARP 5th Edition
 - DRCA Level 1
 - Overview of the VEA
 - VEA Basic
 - VEA Advanced
 - Reconsiderations and Reviews and;
 - ATDP Statements of Principles.
- A list of CPD 'Not Current' advocates has been created to view their CPD progress. Not Current advocates have been removed from the Accredited Advocate Register (AAR).
- Creating a list of all ATDP mentors and their CPD status for reporting purposes.
- Currently working on creating new reports of all unique active advocates with their level and stream identified in a single report.
- Working on implementing updated security recommendations.

Reminder: ESO Office Bearers and AAR

There are input fields in the Accredited Advocate Register where ESO office bearer details can be entered by the ESO Authorised Officer including the name of the ESO, ESO Secretary, addresses and other information. To ensure we have these contact details current it would be appreciated if this information could be kept updated.

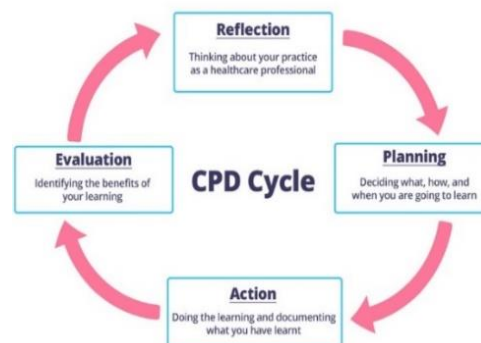
Continuing Professional Development

How Does CPD Work?

The CPD team have had a lot of queries recently about how CPD actually works. Its not always straight forward to understand how points are calculate and why the status table shows as it does. To hopefully shed some light on how it works and how your CPD points total are calculated as the year progresses I've outlined the main elements below. A rule of thumb is that an Advocate needs to attain 15 CPD points each year to remain Current. Here goes.....



1. In your first CPD year your CPD obligation will show **CURRENT** in recognition of being awarded a Statement of Attainment (SoA). However, you still need to do CPD and achieve 15 points by 30 June each year.
2. Advocates should aim to achieve 45 points over a three year rolling period to remain CURRENT.
3. A status of **IN ARREARS** means you are falling behind and need to catch up (i.e. attain 15 points by 30 June)
4. If you are IN ARREARS for three consecutive years you will become **NOT CURRENT** which may have implications for your insurance cover and your details will be removed from the AAR.
5. CPD points can be allocated backwards up to 2 years. Therefore, your status can change at any time during the year.
6. 90 day rule. Advocates are given a 90 day exemption from CPD after their SoA is granted and before their next learning pathway commences (if applicable).
7. When an advocate gains a SoA from Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) the CPD start date will be your first SoA date (not the latest SoA).
8. If you gain a SoA from the Training pathway (not RPL) your CPD start date is the date of your most recent SoA.
9. An advocate who has obtained a qualification at Level 1 or 2 via RPL must complete the four compulsory core Update Modules in CPD before they can commence any other CPD units/activities.
10. Core Update Modules cannot be completed more than once for points but you can review them again. Advocates that complete training via the Learning Pathway do not need to do these 'Catch Up' units as they are included in the ATDP curriculum.



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

That's it for this month. Have a look at the CPD site if you get chance as there might be something that takes your interest, which will add to those important points you may need.

Regards, **Brett Warner** CPD Team Leader

Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) Grant - Service Standards Development



Service standards for Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) grant recipients are being developed as part of the 2021-22 Budget initiative to provide support for veterans' advocacy services. The intent of service standards for claims advocates is to ensure that veterans and their families receive consistently high-quality claim advice and assistance from organisations who receive BEST funding. The project to develop and implement standards is underway and will include consultation with ESO's. Further updates will be provided as the project progresses.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE.

The word "VITA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, enclosed within a thin blue rectangular border.

The VITA insurance policy includes the following:

"Additionally, cover is limited to those practitioners who are compliant with the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) Continuous Professional Development requirements and who comply with the ATDP Code of Ethics."

If you are in doubt as to Professional Indemnity Insurance cover please check with your ESO to ensure that you are not personally exposed to risk in the event of an innocent mistake or oversight."

RTO Update

Major Training Services (MTS) is pleased to continue working with DVA, ESOs and ATDP volunteers to deliver and develop *the Course in Military Advocacy* which is the backbone of the ATDP.

We are working with the current ATDP volunteer facilitator and assessor team to ensure that assessment programs for advocates continue. This includes exploring online assessment to help give trainees ready for assessment an option to complete their qualification.



ASQA and course development consultation – Reminder

- The ATDP and RTO will be running a consultation process during September 2021 for ASQA reaccreditation of the Course in Military Advocacy and also for developing the concept of a Wellbeing Level 3 qualification.
- Small face-to-face consultation workshops are planned for Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Townsville, followed by a series of online workshops.
- ATDP Regional Managers have been advised of the target groups and have been asked to suggest suitable participants.
- Face to Face and Online workshops will be available and nomination information has been sent to Regional Managers.
- If state-based COVID-19 restrictions prevent the face-to-face workshops they will be held online.



MTS are facilitating the ATDP workshops to support reaccreditation of the ATDP's Course in Military Advocacy, and to inform development of a new level 3 Wellbeing qualification.

Face to Face Workshops

Date	Program	Location	Venue
1 September	ASQA reaccreditation	Brisbane	DVA Head Office, Brisbane Repatriation/Remembrance Rooms
2 September	Wellbeing Level 3	Brisbane	
14 September	ASQA reaccreditation	Sydney	DVA Head Office, Sydney Concord Room
15 September	Wellbeing Level 3	Sydney	
21 September	ASQA reaccreditation	Melbourne	DVA Head Office, Melbourne VC, ADF and Veteran Room
22 September	Wellbeing Level 3	Melbourne	
29 September	ASQA reaccreditation	Townsville	Oasis, 20 Darter Street, Oonoonba, Main Training Room
30 September	Wellbeing Level 3	Townsville	

On-line Workshops

Date	Program	Region
3 September	ASQA reaccreditation	Region 1
13 September	Wellbeing Level 3	Region 1
17 September	ASQA reaccreditation	Region 2
20 September	Wellbeing Level 3	Region 2
23 September	ASQA reaccreditation	Region 3
24 September	Wellbeing Level 3	Region 3

ATDP Contacts

ATDP Website	<i>Website</i>	https://web.atdp.org.au/
ATDP Information	<i>Information</i>	info@atdp.org.au
ATDP Enquiries	<i>Enquiries</i>	ATDPenquiries@dva.gov.au
ATDP Communications	<i>Communications</i>	communications@atdp.org.au
ATDP National Training Manager (NTM)	<i>MTS</i>	ntm@atdp.org.au
Continuing Professional Development (CPD) - Manager	<i>Brett Warner</i>	cpd@atdp.org.au
Regional Manager (RM1) - Qld/NT	<i>Bob Grandin</i>	rm1@atdp.org.au
Regional Manager (RM2) - NSW/WA/ACT	<i>Ian Thompson</i>	rm2@atdp.org.au
Regional Manager (RM3) - Vic/SA/Tas	<i>Brian Milner</i>	rm3@atdp.org.au
Program Support Team Leader SA time, 8.30-4.00, Mon-Fri	<i>Elizabeth Owen</i>	psomanager@atdp.org.au 08 8290 0499 or 0484 093 016
Region 1 Program Support Officer (PSO1) SA time, 8.30-4.00, Mon-Fri	<i>Amanda Williams</i>	pso1@atdp.org.au 08 8290 0283 or 0484 820 620
Region 2 Program Support Officer (PSO2) EST time, 9.00-5.00, Mon-Fri	<i>Samone Mason</i>	pso2@atdp.org.au 02 6276 4828 or 0484 076 849
Region 3 Program Support Officer (PSO3) SA time, 8.30-4.00, Mon-Fri	<i>Phil Boys</i>	pso3@atdp.org.au 08 8290 0273 or 0484 594 791

ATDP Acronyms and Abbreviations

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