



Advocacy Training and  
Development Program

# ATDP Update July 2021

## ATDP OVERVIEW

Dear Readers,

This month has been one of significance in the evolution of the ATDP. Recently changes have been announced to the governance structure of the ATDP after the Strategic Management Board (SGB) requested a review of the governance of the program 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.

As a consequence of the review, the program will move from the current committee structure and transition to a new model, 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 new arrangements will not impact the management of advocacy services, or of advocates, which remain with Ex-Service Organisations and their important advisory and consultation role will remain an integral feature of the program.

In making these changes, DVA will now directly oversight the program. DVA staff wish to acknowledge the critical role that both the SGB and Capability Framework Management Group (CFMG), capably led by Jenny Walker (SGB) and Roger Greene (CFMG) have played in growing the ATDP to be the success it is today. In particular the work of Greg Hoving, as National Training Manager has been pivotal in the introduction and conduct of accredited advocacy training. The hard work and expertise of the SGB and CFMG members in the development and management of the program is greatly valued and has been the backbone of the program's achievements to date. To ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements over the coming months we look forward to their continuing valuable advice and help.

DVA will convene a meeting of the outgoing SGB to work through the transition arrangements with the benefit of this group's expert advice, and further information will follow.

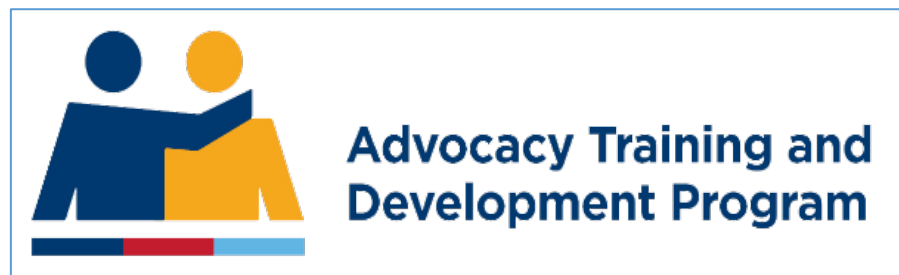
Unfortunately, with the resurgence of COVID 19 in the community and given public health advice and the lockdowns occurring nationally, the Sydney mentoring training program that was scheduled for late June has been cancelled. The status of other upcoming programs will be under continual review while states put arrangements in place to avert the spread of the virus and we will keep you informed regarding any further program cancellations and/or rescheduled programs.

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.**

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# REACCREDITATION OF THE COURSE IN MILITARY ADVOCACY



Early in the implementation phase of ATDP, DVA applied for national accreditation for the Course in Military Advocacy (10620NAT) from the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). Accreditation was approved on 28 April 2017 for a period of 5 years. The current accreditation expires on 27 April 2022, meaning that DVA must reapply to ASQA to ensure approval is granted before the expiry date.

Reaccreditation involves a five-stage process:

- **Stage 1.** Submitting a VET Accredited Course – Intention to Renew.
- **Stage 2.** Undertaking industry consultation; reviewing and updating existing VET Accredited Course documents.
- **Stage 3.** Submitting updated VET Accredited Course documents for approval.
- **Stage 4.** Assessment of Course documents by ASQA, including requests for more information if required.
- **Stage 5.** Decision on reaccreditation.

The Intention to Renew document will be submitted to ASQA shortly. The updated VET Accredited Course documents must be submitted for assessment no later than 90 days before the expiry date, although ASQA recommends allowing up to 6 months to allow for delays or resubmissions. To meet the 6-month guideline, DVA intends to submit the application for reaccreditation before the end of October 2021.

To this end, industry consultation (engagement with the ESO and Advocacy community) will be undertaken during September and early October 2021. It is planned to hold a series of face-to-face workshops in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Townsville, followed by a series of online workshops via Zoom to facilitate input from other States/Territories. The aim of this consultation process is to provide evidence to ASQA that:

- there is an ongoing industry, enterprise, education, legislative or community need for the Course in Military Advocacy, and
- to ensure that the Course in Military Advocacy complies with current standards and meets current industry needs.

More information on these workshops, and the process of expressing interest in participating, will be provided by the end of July 2021.

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## CONSULTATION WORKSHOPS – LEVEL 3 WELLBEING ADVOCATE

Following feedback from a number of ESOs and experienced Wellbeing Advocates, DVA and the ATDP have been investigating the possibility of expanding the Wellbeing Advocacy stream to include Level 3. The aim is to encourage the continuing professional development of experienced Level 2 Wellbeing Advocates, and to provide enhanced and professional wellbeing services to the veteran community.

The concept envisaged at this stage is to utilise existing units of competency from the Certificate IV in Community Services, with training and assessment contextualised for veterans and veteran's families. Developing the concept further requires input from ESOs, Veteran Centres and experienced Wellbeing Advocates to determine, among other things:

- that there is a need in the ESO community for a Level 3 Wellbeing Advocate,
- a generic job description for a Level 3 Wellbeing Advocate,
- the required skills and knowledge for a Level 3 Wellbeing Advocate,
- the specific units of competency from the Certificate IV in Community Services that would match the job description, skills and knowledge identified.

To this end, a consultation process will be undertaken during September and early October 2021. It is planned to hold a series of face-to-face workshops in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Townsville, followed by a series of online workshops via Zoom to facilitate input from other States/Territories and other interested parties.

More information on these workshops, and the process of expressing interest in participating, will be provided by the end of July 2021.

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### Dates of the Workshops

Face to Face and Online workshops will be available and a nomination form will be sent out to ESOs in mid July for ESOs to nominate attendees.

#### Face to Face Workshops

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

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## On-line Workshops

Date	Program	Region
3 September	<a href="#">ASQA reaccreditation</a>	Region 1
13 September	Wellbeing Level 3	Region 1
17 September	<a href="#">ASQA reaccreditation</a>	Region 2
20 September	Wellbeing Level 3	Region 2
23 September	<a href="#">ASQA reaccreditation</a>	Region 3
24 September	Wellbeing Level 3	Region 3

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## Training Manager Report

### Five years old today!

ATDP is now officially five years of age. Many organisations use a rolling strategic plan, usually looking to five years into the future, while modifying the plan to suit current known circumstances and predicted future requirements or trends. ATDP had a plan at the outset, but it did not necessarily look to a five-year future. What is important now are two things; what has happened in the past five years which have shaped where ATDP is today and what implications are there for the next five years.



When the foundations for ATDP were being laid, advocacy services were being provided significantly by volunteers in Ex Service Organisations (ESO). The predecessor for ATDP was the Training and Information Program (TIP) which too was funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) but with very little input into its operation. DVA became more involved with ATDP with one key person who familiarised himself with many aspects of the way ATDP was developing and he supported that development and particularly me during that period. Wayne starts his journey to retirement very soon (as mentioned in Roger's article) but I'd like to thank Wayne personally for the support he showed in those development years.

Since ATDP began assessing and then overseeing the workplace training of advocates we have had large numbers of people through the system. With 1158 Statements of Attainment awarded and currently 441 people at various stages in the training pathway in both streams. At the same time many of the former TIP presenters who wanted to continue in ATDP had to gain additional qualifications to meet the requirements of the standards for registered Training Organisations (RTO) to train and assess for ATDP. Our partner RTO has had its role in our course delivery audited and certain changes were implemented as a result of that audit. The Standards for RTOs changed in 2019 and some assessors had to update their qualifications to continue contributing. Such is the dedication of the volunteers in ATDP.

The changes which took place over the last five years have been accommodated and the plan for the immediate future is based on those changes. The next big task is to review the whole course and the associated Units of Competency to ensure they meet the needs of the present and the future directions of Military Advocacy.

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Some of the questions which have to be asked are these.

- Has the role of a compensation or wellbeing advocate changed in the past five years or are likely to change in the next?
- If change has occurred, how does that impact the training?
- If other change is likely to occur, how does that impact on training?
- Have there been changes in the National Vocational and Educational and Training requirements which impact the way ATDP operates.

Regrettably the future of advocacy delivery is far less clear. Many of the larger ESOs seem to be going in their own direction. DVA has been urging change and the Productivity Commission and an enquiry by Rob Cornall AM have made recommendations which have gone to Government. Just which of those recommendations will be adopted and how advocacy provision is shaped is not known. The impact of that must affect ATDP but how we incorporate that into a five year, rolling strategic plan is something for the crystal ball.

### **Wayne's word of wisdom**

With the departure of Wayne from DVA and ATDP, we will see no more of Wayne's words of wisdom which have appeared in this newsletter for some time. While the word themselves were not Wayne's, he researched them to make them topical for ATDP today. Let's hope another can step into that role in the future.

### **Course review**

As Roger has indicated, we will be reviewing the whole of 10620NAT and its Units of Competency. Given the absence of any reliable information on the future directions of advocacy, we must have the review take into account the present rather than that of the future. ESOs will be asked to nominate qualified persons with extensive experience to form a part of consultative groups and individuals will be given the opportunity to make submissions. The review will conform to the requirements of the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). If you feel you may be able to contribute in a meaningful way, watch for future notifications.

Regards,



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## Region 1 Update – Qld, NT

The next **TAEDEL404** Mentoring in the ATDP workplace has been postponed due to Covid. A Melbourne program for mid-July is still proceeding at this time. The day mentor training program is still in development to support new mentors at ESO level and it is hoped to roll this out soon.

Planning for C&A programs is in train and dates should be available on the website shortly.

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.

Regards,

***Dr Bob Grandin***

A/g Manager, Regional Implementation Group 1



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## Region 2 Update – NSW, ACT, WA

### Training

COVID issues continue to affect the training program and occasional activities need to be cancelled or amended to allow for difficulties in providing assessors to manage the program, commensurate with the safety considerations of all concerned. While Victoria has been of particular interest of late, other States are now making the news for isolated cases, so future programs may be changed at short notice.

Notwithstanding the detection of Covid cases, planning for Consolidation and Assessment of available candidates continues as the situation allows. The following Table provides RIG 2 specific information



	Enrolled	>6 Months	Nil Entry	Ready for Assess.
MILADC001	86	26 (30%)	18 (21%)	9
MILADC002	32	4 (13%)	9 (28%)	2
MILADC003/5	3	0	1	1
MILADW001	53	18 (34%)	18 (34%)	5
MILADW001	2	0	1	1

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Ready for Assessment figures are relatively low which indicates to me that there is not a lot of demand for Consolidation and Assessment, however, many candidates appear to be stagnating with their training for reasons that are not evident to me. The number of candidates who have enrolled I MILADC001, MILADC002 and MILADW001 and not made an entry in their WEL is of particular concern. Admittedly some enrolments have been recent, but they are counter balanced by the high number of candidates who signed up in excess of two years ago and have done nothing to progress. The Program Support Officer will be contacting the 'Nil Entry' candidates and where necessary, records will be archived.

#### **TADEL404 Mentoring in the Workplace Workshop**

For the second time, this planned Sydney Pilot program has been cancelled for Covid reasons. The Workshop will be rescheduled later when the situation permits – watch this space.

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

- Attended Level 1 Consolidation and Assessment, Brisbane 15 to 17 June 2021
- Discussions in Brisbane, 21 to 23 June 2021

#### **Wayne is Leaving**

One of the key players throughout the successful introduction of Advocacy Training and Development Program, has been a DVA Director who has resolutely supported the ATDP team. Wayne Stidson has always been available to listen to my concerns about Regional Implementation Group (RIG) 2 matters and when required, to make the hard calls to ensure progress of the issue. His unfailing support for ATDP Training Team members has been particularly noteworthy.

I will leave it to others to provide more eloquent praise, however, on behalf of all of RIG 2, I wish Wayne and his family all the very best that retirement may offer, following a long and successful journey in the Public Service. Well done, Wayne your support will be sorely missed.

Please advise me via email ([rm2@atdp.org.au](mailto: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***

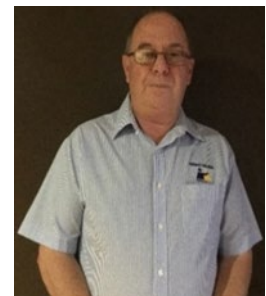
Manager, Regional Implementation Group 2

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## **Region 3 Update – Vic, SA, Tas**

June has been a challenging month. We have a new minister for Veterans Affairs (I think that is eight in 10 years), and COVID continues to disrupt ATDP training and assessment at all levels.

Late last week DVA announced that the “Minister has agreed to move responsibility for ongoing management of the ATDP from the current committee governance structure to DVA.” There is little detail in their announcement.



Candidates panelled for Consolidation & Assessment	Candidates waiting for Consolidation & Assessment	Advocates waiting for Recognition of Prior Learning
3x Compensation Level 3 6x Wellbeing Level 1	6x Compensation Level 1 2x Compensation Level 2 4x Wellbeing Level 1 5x Wellbeing Level 2	1x Compensation Level 2 1x Compensation Level 3 1x Wellbeing Level 2
Mentor Notifications	New Enrolments	Archived
4x eLearning 2x C&A Ready	3x Compensation Level 1 1x Compensation Level 3	1x Compensation Level 1 Training 2x Compensation Level 2 Accredited 1x Wellbeing Level 1 Training 1x Wellbeing Level 2 Accredited
SOA Issued	Program Attendance	
3x Compensation Level 2 (RPL) 1x TAEDEL404 Mentoring	Nil	

### **Brian Milner**

Manager, Regional Implementation Group 3

## 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:**

- In CPD administration the event management section has been modified to allow sortable headings for quick search functionality.
- Changes have been made to the Accredited Advocate Register to exclude advocates that are Not Current with their CPD obligations (from 1 July 2021).
- The CPD system has been modified to display 2021/22 activities and progress. Advocates who commenced CPD on 1 July 2018 have their first year CPD cycle not visible in the table (due to space constraints) and points cannot be allocated back for this year. However, CPD status for this year will still be used to calculate the rolling CPD cycle. All Advocates who are Current with their CPD will be able to download a personalised CPD currency certificate from the CPD portal from 1 July.



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## Continuing Professional Development

Just a quick recap on the end of year 3 CPD arrangements. For those advocates that became 'Not Current' for CPD on 1 July you will still be able to access the CPD system and do CPD activities and catch up if you like. However, your details have been removed from the Accredited Advocate Register and there may be implications for your professional indemnity insurance arrangements through your ESO. Where you become 'Not Current' and remain practicing as an advocate we advise you to discuss this with your ESO to ensure that you will be adequately covered for your activities. Please see the information below from the VITA insurance policy:



### **"AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE.**

The VITA insurance policy includes the following:

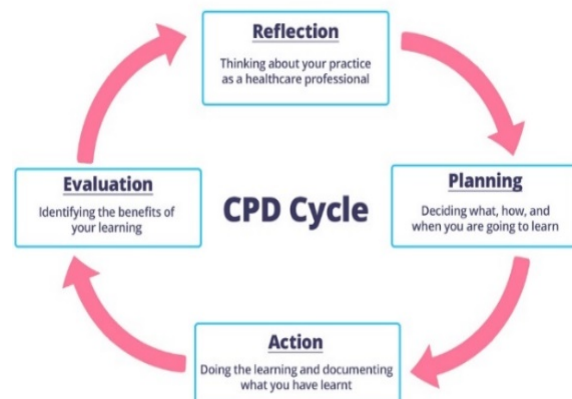
***"Additionally, cover is limited to those practitioners who are compliant with the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) Continuous Professional Development requirements and who comply with the ATDP Code of Ethics."***

***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."***

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)

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



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## Program Support Update

We have put on more programs for the second part of the year. For a list of programs see table below:

Type of Program	Location	Date
Mentoring in the Workplace	Melbourne	14-15 Jul 21
Level 1 Wellbeing C&A	Sydney	20-22 Jul 21
RPL (Levels 1-4)	Tamworth	28-29 Jul 21
Level 3 Compensation C&A	Melbourne	2-5 Aug 21
Level 1 Wellbeing	Port Macquarie	10-12 Aug 21
Level 1 Compensation C&A	Sydney	24-26 Aug 21
Level 2 Wellbeing C&A	Brisbane	7-9 Sep 21
Level 2 Wellbeing C&A	Adelaide	21-23 Sep 21
Level 1 Wellbeing C&A	Melbourne	28-30 Sep 21
RPL (Levels 1-4)	Brisbane	12-13 Oct 21
RPL (Levels 1-4)	Sydney	19-20 Oct 21

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

### Nominations for this Year

We have had a steady flow of new nominations for training coming into ATDP this year. If you would like to become an advocate, contact your local ex-service organisation (ESO) to ask if there is capacity and work to take on an advocate role. The ESO will source a mentor for you and formally submit the nomination through the ATDP Advocate Register (AAR).

Month	Nominations
January	16
February	17
March	37
April	18
May	34
June	20

Many thanks,  
**Elizabeth Owen**  
Program Support Team Leader

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Do you have a '**Letter to the Editor**' about advocacy? *The ATDP 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)



## Wayne's Words of Wisdom

This month's *Wayne's Words of Wisdom* comes from the world greatest living singer songwriter **Bob Dylan**.

**Bob Dylan** (born Robert Allen Zimmerman in May 24, 1941) is an American singer-songwriter, author and visual artist. He is regarded as one of the greatest songwriters of all time, and has been a major figure in popular culture during a career spanning nearly 60 years.

Much of his most celebrated work dates from the 1960s, when songs such as "*Blowin' in the Wind*" (1963) and "*The Times They Are a-Changin'*" (1964) became anthems for the civil rights and anti-war movements. His lyrics during this period incorporated a range of political, social, philosophical, and literary influences, defying pop music conventions and appealing to the burgeoning counterculture. At 80 he is still going strong and remains a self-declared enemy of the half lived meaningless life.



***"We have never arrived. We are in a constant state of becoming."***

## 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>
<b>ATDP Communications</b>	Communications	<a href="mailto:communications@atdp.org.au">communications@atdp.org.au</a>
<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>RCC</b>	Recognition of Current Competency
<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