



11019NAT Course in Military Advocacy

A nationally recognised training course funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and managed through their Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) (atdp.org.au).

Course purpose

The Department's aim in the provision of this accredited course is to provide individuals¹, as authorised representatives² of bona fide Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs), which offer free advocacy services³ to serving and ex-serving members of the Defence Force and their dependants, with the skills and knowledge necessary to:

- advise and assist serving and ex-serving military clients and their dependants with compensation claims,
- assist serving and ex-serving military clients and their dependants and families to connect with government and community-based services and support,
- represent serving and ex-serving military clients and their dependants in preparing and presenting a merits review of a primary decision, or
- represent serving and ex-serving military clients and their dependants before the Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) in relation to compensation and entitlement decisions.

¹ Individuals may be volunteers or employed (paid) Advocates who fulfill the role of either a Military Compensation Advocate or Military Wellbeing Advocate.

² Trainees must be affiliated with a nominating ESO for the duration of the Course in Military Advocacy. Nomination and affiliation are at the discretion of the ESO. If an ESO or trainee cease their affiliation with each other at any stage of the training program, the trainee will be unable to continue until the ESO reinstates its endorsement or an alternative ESO makes a nomination.

³ 11019NAT Course in Military Advocacy is only available to candidates/trainees nominated by ESOs that **do not charge any fee** for providing wellbeing and compensation advocacy services to Veterans and their families.

NB: Trainees must be over 18 years of age

2022 Course Reaccreditation

Reaccreditation of the Department's, nationally recognised Course in Military Advocacy, was granted by the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator for a further 5 years, commencing 28 April 2022. The new course code is 11019NAT.

Note: The previous course 10620NAT Course in Military Advocacy, is equivalent to the new course. Advocates who hold units of competency from the previous 10620NAT Course in Military Advocacy remain current and are not required to undertake any transitional training.

DVA's Registered Training Provider

Major Training Services Pty Ltd (MTS) (RTO 90748) (www.majortraining.com.au) has been appointed, under a contractual arrangement, as the Department's Registered Training Organisation responsible for the delivery of the current 11019NAT Course in Military Advocacy.

The Course Copyright Holder is the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Course Structure

The course includes six elective Units of Competency covering two streams i.e. Wellbeing and Compensation. Some units have a pre-requisite Unit of Competency. The successful completion of each Unit of Competency leads to a nationally recognised Statement of Attainment for that Unit of Competency being issued by Major Training Services Pty Ltd (RTO 90748). When a trainee receives a Statement of Attainment identifying the completed Unit of Competency, they are accredited as an Advocate authorised to provide the services outlined in that specific Unit.

The two streams of the course and their corresponding Units of Competency (as listed on the National Register, [TGA](#)) are:

Rehabilitation and Compensation Stream

- Compensation Level 1: **NAT11019001** Provide military rehabilitation and compensation advocacy services under supervision
- Compensation Level 2: **NAT11019002** Provide military rehabilitation and compensation advocacy services
- Compensation Level 3: **NAT11019003** Advocate on behalf of members of the military community for a merits review of a primary decision
- Compensation Level 4: **NAT11019004** Advocate on behalf of members of the military community before the Administrative Review Tribunal

Wellbeing Stream

- Wellbeing Level 1: **NAT11019005** Provide military wellbeing advocacy services under supervision
- Wellbeing Level 2: **NAT11019006** Provide military wellbeing advocacy services

Trainees may choose to only complete **one** or **both** streams to Level 2 without the need to progress further.

If trainees progress to Level 3 Compensation, trainees must possess a Statement of Attainment for unit *NAT11019002 Provide military rehabilitation and compensation advocacy services* or its predecessor, *MILADC002 Provide military rehabilitation and compensation advocacy services*.

Likewise, to progress to Level 4 Compensation, trainees must possess a Statement of Attainment for unit *NAT11019003 Advocate on behalf of members of the military community for a merits review of a primary decision* or its predecessors, *MILADC003 Advocate on behalf of members of the military community before the Veterans' Review Board* or *MILADC005 Advocate on behalf of members of the military community for a merits review of a primary decision*.

Delivery Modes

Accreditation to become an Advocate to provide the services identified by one or more of the six Units of Competency from the course, can occur by two means, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) or the Training Pathway.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

To assess recognition of prior learning against a required unit of competency, sufficient evidence must be provided by the Advocate to demonstrate that their current skills and knowledge align with the required outcomes of the unit. This evidence must be the learner's own work.

To progress to a higher level in either Compensation or Wellbeing, Advocates must first possess a Statement of Attainment for the lower-level unit of competency.

The Training Pathway

Level 1 Facilitated Learning Program (FLP) units of competency (as referred to on previous page)

From 1 July 2024, training of new Level 1 Advocates will cover both Wellbeing and Compensation. Following enrolment, trainees will complete mandatory eLearning packages before attending facilitated training and assessment sessions, completed in two three-day blocks. These sessions are delivered either online or in-person, however, the in-person programs will proceed only if minimum numbers are met

Assessments at the training sessions will be in the form of a simulated workplace environment covering interviews, completion of post interview actions plans and the completion of theoretical knowledge examinations.

While it is recommended all trainees complete both Wellbeing and Compensation, trainees may be nominated by their ESO to complete only one advocacy stream, however, Module 1 (Common Skills) is mandatory for all trainees.

For more information, please refer to the How to Guide titled "What to Expect as a Level 1 Trainee" found at the bottom of the ATDP Home Page (atdp.org.au) under How to Guides (<https://web.atdp.org.au/psMsg>)

Level 2 and higher level units of competency (as referred to on previous page)

From Level 2 and higher level units of competency, Advocacy training is based on the Adult Learning Principle of 70:20:10. This means the training for each unit of competency after Level 1 is largely undertaken on the job, with 70% of learning coming from workplace experience under the guidance of a mentor, 20% from information obtained from a mentor and other advocates and 10% from formal learning. Formal learning includes eLearning study units as well as attendance at a Consolidation and Assessment (C&A) program conducted at the end of the learning journey for the individual unit of competency being studied.

During on-the-job training, trainees will be required to complete a Workplace Experience Log (WEL) under the guidance of a mentor. Once both the WEL and online study units have been completed, the mentor will then nominate the trainees as ready to attend a C&A program. These programs are generally delivered via facilitator-led online delivery.

Attendance at the C&A programs requires a commitment of 3-4 days, depending on the unit of competency being assessed.

For online delivery, trainees will need access to a computer with stable internet connection and possess good computer skills. If required, instruction on how to use the online meeting platform can be requested by the trainee, prior to attendance. These requests should be directed to

ADVOCACY.TRAINING@dva.gov.au

Assessment material will be provided via email.

Unsupervised activities

Successful completion of Level 2 and higher-level units of competencies will require trainees to engage in unsupervised activities including:

- undertaking work experience with an ESO
- completing self-study to revise and reinforce areas of knowledge
- completing eLearning modules
- workplace practice/application of skills and knowledge acquired through supervised learning activities, and
- conducting research to gain up to date information relating to military rehabilitation and compensation or wellbeing services.

The time required to undertake these unsupervised activities will vary between trainees based on their experience. On average, the unsupervised activities listed above will equate to approximately 100 hours.

Duration

The Level 1 training will normally be completed over a two-month period, although this may increase depending on the time taken by individual trainees to complete the pre-requisite eLearning packages.

For Level 2 and higher-level units of competencies, trainees take, on average, twelve (12) months to complete their chosen unit of competency via the training pathway. However, this depends greatly on the individual and the amount of time they can reasonably be expected to offer their services within their ESO.

Trainee nomination requirements

Trainees are to be selected by their ESO using the “Guidelines for the Selection of Trainee Advocates” which is available on the ATDP website (atdp.org.au). Ideally, trainees will have been exposed to the Advocacy role within an ESO prior to enrolment, to ensure they have both the capability and willingness to carry out the role, and are prepared to work in accordance with organisational requirements including confidentiality and privacy.

Trainees must then be nominated by their sponsoring ESO using the online nomination form on the ATDP

Trainee RTO Pre-enrolment requirements for Level 1

Once the above nomination process has been completed, candidates will complete an online enrolment form, which must be completed by the actual candidate, to be formally enrolled with Major Training Services Pty Ltd (RTO 90748), subject to first meeting the following mandatory Pre-enrolment requirements:

- Receipt of the MTS Candidate Handbook, which advises the trainee's rights and responsibilities for the successful completion of courses (linked to the application information);
- Completion of a short Language, Literacy and Numeracy assessment quiz -
 - Option 1 – provide a copy of evidence of your completion of a Cert III or higher qualification, or USI transcript to demonstrate a suitable level of LLN to complete the course.
 - Option 2 – if no documentation is available, complete the LLN assessment Quiz which should take you approximately 15 minutes to complete.
- Completion of the Digital Skills Questionnaire included with the enrolment form, to ensure candidates have an elementary level of digital literacy to carry out the inherent requirements of the role of an Advocate and attend the training.

MTS staff will contact trainees via email, regarding full details of the Language, Literacy, Numeracy and Digital (LLND) requirements.

Once the LLND requirements above have been met and your RTO enrolment has been finalised, information about the next steps will follow from ATDP (ie., login details to DVA Train).

Preferences for training places are based on the best possible return to the ex-service community, so workload of an ESO, Veteran Centre or Community of Practice is taken into account.

Course fees

Enrolment in the course is at the discretion of a sponsoring Ex-Service Organisation (ESO), such as the RSL or Legacy, on whose behalf trainees intend to assist veterans and their families either as a volunteer or paid employee, and as such no fees are payable.

The Government, through the Department of Veterans' Affairs, supports the program financially and provides administrative support.

Available course dates

Upcoming course dates are published on the ATDP website home page: atdp.org.au