



Education support

Defence Member and Family Support



Defence recognises that some children may experience disruption to their education each time they move for a posting.

Defence Member and Family Support (DMFS) have a range of services and resources that can assist with the transition between schools and education systems, and provide support for the unique needs of Defence students.

EDUCATION LIAISON OFFICERS

Education Liaison Officers, or EDLOs, are part of DMFS's education advisory service designed to inform, prepare and empower Defence families when they are relocating and changing schools.

EDLOs can:

- inform families about local schools and education systems
- link families with special education providers, resources or support agencies according to their children's individual needs (including special needs students)
- work with schools to ensure a supportive educational environment and raise awareness of issues facing Defence children
- inform families about the support services available, including financial assistance through the Education Assistance Scheme.

To speak with a local EDLO contact the all-hours Defence Member and Family Helpline

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A range of financial support is available to help minimise disruption to education caused by posting within Australia. The aim is to provide the student with limited interim assistance to help overcome any immediate difficulties with their education occurring as a direct result of posting. Defence may provide education assistance when the member is posted and your child needs to:

- change schools
- study at a school not in your posting location.
- study at a tertiary institution away from where you live.

Support may include:

- Tutoring
- boarding school allowance
- tertiary accommodation
- loss of scholarship



A child recognised as resident family with special needs may be entitled to education assistance for:

- A therapy service critical to educational progress
- Assessment of special need to develop a suitable educational program
- Attendance at a private school to access a special program or service, critical to the child's educational progress
- A special education program for a child who is academically gifted.

The [ADF Pay and Conditions Manual](#) provides further details on Education assistance.

ADF AWARE – SCHOOL CAPABILITY BUILDING

The ADF Aware Program assists school staff to better understand the unique needs of children from ADF families in order to support them.

The program is delivered to school staff through 3 x 30min self-paced online training modules.

- Module 1 - Introduction to ADF service and its impacts on students.
- Module 2 - Impacts of ADF service on students and family life.
- Module 3 - School support for students impacted by ADF service.

Schools interested in completing the ADF Aware Program can submit a Request for Access form. Defence will provide the school representative with details of how staff can access the online program modules.

For more information and to submit a Request for Access, visit the [ADF Aware Program](#) webpage.

MOVING SCHOOLS CHECKLIST

Finding and moving to a new school when relocating has many challenges. The moving schools checklists for parents cover things to do before moving and on arrival, to help children settle in. For a copy of the checklist and other tips for changing schools, visit the [Changing Schools](#) webpage

DEFENCE SCHOOL MENTORS

DMFS provides funding to eligible schools to assist with the employment of Defence School Mentors, or DSMs. DSMs are based in primary and secondary schools across Australia. They work to minimise the impact of mobility on education and build the capability of the school in supporting Defence students and their families.

They provide support through on-site, direct and flexible assistance to students, parents, teachers and other support services.

The program has 4 objectives:

Provide families with information about the school environment and the support available relevant to their child's development needs.

Support children to access school based social and emotional support, aligned to school policies.

Facilitate opportunities for children to build relationships and connections through events and other initiatives.

Raise awareness amongst the school community about the impacts of the Defence lifestyle on children and families.

For a list of schools with a DSM, visit the [Defence School Mentor Program](#) webpage

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on education support, email education.supportprograms@defence.gov.au.

Defence Member and Family Support offers a wide range of support services to ADF members and their families.

For more information on this factsheet and other DMFS services visit our website or contact the all-hours Defence Member and Family Helpline.



1800 624 608



memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au



defence.gov.au/adf-members-families



[DefenceMemberFamilySupport](#)



[DMFS_AusDefence](#)



[DMFS_AusDefence](#)

