



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 have extensive knowledge about the differences in the way states, territories and individual schools deliver education, as well as the unique needs of Defence children.

EDLOs can:

- inform families about local schools and education systems
- work with parents, students and teachers to manage the transition to a new location and school
- 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.

Due to their understanding of both the Defence lifestyle and the different state and territory education systems, they also advise Defence and key education authorities on the current needs of Defence students, and contribute to education policy.

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.

DSMs can:

- assist children and families to integrate into the new school and local community



- coordinate community activities for relocating families
- smooth the transition between schools and different education systems (including minimising the impact of relocation on children's learning outcomes)
- monitor the social, emotional and academic wellbeing of Defence students
- help students develop self-confidence, self-reliance and resilience
- direct students to programs, services or opportunities that suit their needs
- provide support to children during times of parental absence
- enhance awareness and appreciation of the unique Defence lifestyle in schools and communities.

For a list of schools with a DSM, visit the [DMFS kids' education](#) webpages or 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.

Terms and conditions apply.

Tutoring

Defence may reimburse fees for tutoring required to overcome immediate difficulties caused by changing schools. This applies to primary and secondary students, within the first 18 months of starting at the new school.

Boarding school

You may be entitled to financial assistance for compulsory tuition and accommodation costs in situations where the child attends boarding school, rather than relocating and disrupting their education.

Tertiary student accommodation

Financial assistance may be available to assist with accommodation costs if your dependant is studying at a tertiary institution, and their

chosen course is not available in the new posting location, or it would be disruptive to change institutions.

Students with special needs

Practical assistance is available for dependants with special needs. This includes special needs education assessments, therapy services, or tutoring. Dependants with special needs may also be entitled to reimbursement of private schooling costs, if a special program is only available at a private school and it is considered critical for the child's educational progress.

Scholarship loss

If a student has to give up an education scholarship or bursary due to posting, Defence may reimburse their educational costs to the value of that scholarship.

Reunion travel

If the dependant is studying away from your posted location, you may access funds towards the child's travel expenses to come to your location for reunion purposes.

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/members-families



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