



Education assistance

Defence Community Organisation

Minimising disruption to schooling

Defence families can a range of financial support to help minimise the disruption to a family member's schooling caused by posting and relocations.

Defence Community Organisation helps provide students with educational stability or short-term assistance to help overcome any immediate difficulties with education or emotional wellbeing as a result of relocation.

Assistance available

Guidelines and the application forms for these services are available on the DCO website.

Tutoring

We may reimburse fees for tutoring required to fill any gaps in understanding or curriculum caused by changing schools.

Students may be entitled to up to 14 weeks of tutoring in any subject that has been identified by the school as representing a gap in learning. This applies to primary and secondary students, within the first 18 months of enrolment at a new school in a new posting location.

Boarding school allowance

You may choose to have your child attend boarding school, so they do not have to relocate with you and disrupt their education. In this instance, where the child is in the critical years of schooling (Years 9-12), you can access financial assistance for the compulsory tuition fees and accommodation costs of the school.

Tertiary accommodation

If your dependant is studying at a tertiary institution, and their chosen course is not

available in the new posting location, financial assistance is available for accommodation costs for the student to live near or at the tertiary institution. This applies only to full-time undergraduate students and is capped at a maximum of three years' assistance.

Special needs support

Practical assistance is available for special needs students. This includes assessment, therapy, tuition and additional support where students had received these services in their old location and aren't able to access them at their new posting.

Special needs dependants may also be entitled to reimbursement of private schooling costs, if a necessary special program is only available at a non-government school.

See the *Support for dependants with special needs* handout for more information.

Reimbursement of a lost scholarship

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





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Reunion travel

If your child is studying at a location distant from your posting, you may access funds towards the child's travel expenses to come to your location for a reunion. The child must already be receiving Defence education assistance to be entitled to one return journey each calendar year.

For more information about this program, contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on **1800 624 608**, or consult your local Regional Education Liaison Officer.

Education assistance

Defence Community Organisation offers a wide range of other education support services for Defence children, including specialised staff to advise families on education issues (see the *REDLOs* handout), in-school support staff (see the *Defence School Transition Aides and Mentors* handout), resources for relocating students and information about the different state and territory schooling systems (see the DCO website).

For more information on any of these services, call the Defence Family Helpline on **1800 624 608**.

For more information on this factsheet and other Defence Community Organisation support services visit www.defence.gov.au/dco or call the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.

The Defence Community Organisation offers a wide range of support services for the families of ADF members.

The best way to access these services is to call **1800 624 608**. The all-hours Defence Family Helpline is staffed by qualified human services professionals including social workers and psychologists.

