



# Defence School Mentors

## Defence Community Organisation

**Defence Community Organisation provides funding for Defence School Mentors in primary and secondary schools across Australia to support the children of mobile Australian Defence Force families.**

**Defence School Mentors are funded by Defence, but are employed by the local state or territory department of education.**

### SUPPORTING DEFENCE STUDENTS

The Defence School Mentor activities include:

- assisting children and families to integrate into the new school and local community
- coordinating welcome and farewell community activities for relocating families
- smoothing the transition between schools and different education systems (including minimising the impact of relocation on children's learning outcomes)
- monitoring the social, emotional and academic wellbeing of Defence students
- helping students develop self-confidence, self-reliance and resilience
- directing students to programs, services or opportunities that suit their needs
- enhancing awareness and appreciation of the unique Defence lifestyle in schools and communities
- providing support to children during times of parental absence.

Mentors can provide extensive support to Defence children, but are not teachers and do not work with one child on a long-term basis.

To find out which schools have Mentors in place, visit the DCO website at <https://www.defence.gov.au/DCO/Family/Kids/Education.asp> or contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.

### EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

Defence Community Organisation offers a wide range of other education support services, resources and information for Defence children. These include Education Liaison Officers who can provide advice to families about different state and territory schooling systems and other education issues, and financial assistance for some education costs incurred by relocation due to posting.

For enquiries about education support for Defence children email, [education.supportprograms@defence.gov.au](mailto:education.supportprograms@defence.gov.au)

Defence Community Organisation offers a wide range of support services to ADF members and their families.

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

