



NEW LETTER TO SCHOOL

General Campbell, Chief of Defence Force has issued a letter addressing the unique challenges ADF families face in relation to schooling and gaining enrolment for their children.

The letter aims to raise awareness among schools and childcare centres of the unique circumstances faced by Defence families. This letter will not circumvent existing school policies but requests that schools provide consideration, within the framework of their existing policies and procedures, to ADF families facing significant enrolment challenges.

Please contact the Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608 or your local Defence Member and Family Support Area Office (<https://www.defence.gov.au/adf-members-families/local-services-events/area-offices>) to obtain a copy of the letter and discuss other support we have available.

CHILDRENS SUPPORT PROGRAMS

[Education Assistance Scheme \(EAS\)](#) - Provides a range of financial support to help members pay for some additional education costs for their children caused by a posting to a location within Australia. Further information can be found in [PACMAN](#)

[Defence School Mentor Program \(DSMP\)](#) - Provides funding to applicant schools for the employment of Defence School Mentors (DSMs) to assist Defence children transition to new localities and school environments and provide support to the children and families of ADF members when a parent is absent from home.

[ADF Equip Program: Children's Group Resilience Program](#) - A suite of sessions tailor-made to support the resilience and wellbeing of children that may experience the effects of parental absence and frequent relocations due to their parent/s or guardian/s serving in the ADF. Register your interest for the ADF Equip program via the above link and a staff member of your local DMFS office will be in contact.

SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP

Defence Special Needs Support Group Inc. is a non-profit benevolent volunteer organisations established to assist Navy, Army and Air Force families with a family member with special needs.

Information about DSNSG and the support offered can be found at www.dsnsng.org.au.

Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust – Scholarships

AVCAT continues to support veteran families through tertiary scholarships for children and grandchildren of Australian ex-serving veterans. We take pride in our long history and strive to honour the legacy of those who have served and the families that support them. We embrace the camaraderie and unique bond shared by veteran families across Australia and take pride in our scholars and alumni.

For more information visit: [Australian Veterans & Children Assistance Trust](#)

Defence Member and Family Helpline

1800 624 608

For advice, support or local community information, contact our all-hours [Defence Member and Family Helpline](#). Run by Defence Member and Family Support, the helpline is the best way to access the programs and services that we offer to help Defence families manage the military way of life.

The helpline is available 24/7 and is staffed by qualified human services professionals, including social workers and psychologists.