

Support to Defence Families with Special Needs



From 1 July 2023 – Defence no longer uses language such as dependant to refer to family members. Under the new framework, if family lives with the ADF member, they are referred to as accompanied resident family (ARF). If they live apart due to approved service, compassionate, work or study reasons, they are unaccompanied resident family (URF).

Support for Defence Families with Special Needs.

Moving can be a challenging process for any family, but when you have a family member who has special needs, the complexity and stress can be even greater. Recognising this, Defence offers additional assistance to Defence families who have a resident family member with special needs. These support services are designed to make the relocation process smoother and more accommodating.

You may be able to access a Pre-posting Visit to your new location, valet unpacking service special accommodation during removal, extra travel time when moving homes, educational assistance and/or extra housing assistance.

In addition to the practical support provided by Defence, we also collaborate with the Defence Special Needs Support Group (DSNSG). The DSNSG serves as a national support network for families with special needs, offering resources, guidance, and a community of individuals who understand the unique challenges faced by Defence families.

For more information on assistance measures visit the Defence website.

[Families with special needs | ADF Members & Families | Defence](#)

Defence Special Needs Support Group



Defence Special Needs Support Group Inc is a non-profit benevolent volunteer organisation 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.

Defence Families Australia



Defence Families of Australia (DFA) is the official ADF families' advisory body to the Minister for Defence Personnel and Chief of the Defence Force (CDF).

DFA sits outside of Defence systems, allowing DFA independence and impartiality to act in the best interests of ADF families.

To find out more about DFA and their work, visit [Defence Families of Australia \(dfa.org.au\)](http://Defence Families of Australia (dfa.org.au)) or contact the National Delegate for Victoria and Tasmania at vic.tas@dfa.org.au.