



# Education Assistance Scheme

## Defence Community Organisation

**Defence Community Organisation provides support to help members' children who may experience disruption to their education when a member is posted to a new location.**

A range of financial support is available to help members pay for some additional education costs for their children caused by a posting to a location within Australia.

### WHAT DOES THE SCHEME COVER

The scheme includes support such as:

- tutoring
- secondary tuition fees and boarding school costs
- tertiary student accommodation
- special needs support (education)
- loss of a scholarship
- student reunion travel.

### TUTORING SUPPORT

Reimbursement for the cost of face-to-face and web-based tutoring is available, where the new school certifies the child has not reached or is unlikely to maintain a sufficient standard in a subject as a result of relocation (evidence must be provided that supports a decline in grades for the subjects requiring tutoring) and the new school cannot provide the required tutoring.

A member may be reimbursed for one hour of tutoring a week for up to 14 weeks, for each subject. Reimbursement must be no more than \$103 per hour.

*For more information, refer to the Tutoring support information sheet.*

### SECONDARY TUITION AND BOARDING SCHOOL SUPPORT

A member may choose to have their child attend boarding school, so they do not have to relocate their child/ren and disrupt their education. In this instance, where the child is in the critical years of schooling (Years 9-12), eligible members may apply for reimbursement of compulsory tuition fees and accommodation costs.

### TERTIARY STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

If a member's child is unable to undertake their chosen course within the member's posting location, accommodation costs (at a capped amount), may be reimbursed to the member for the student to live near or at the tertiary institution.

This applies only to full-time undergraduate students and is for a maximum of three years assistance.



## **SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT (EDUCATION)**

Supports access to benefits (financial reimbursement) for services such as tuition, therapy and needs assessments where students had received these services in their old location and aren't able to access them at their new posting. The member must be recognised as having a dependant with special needs.

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

## **LOSS OF SCHOLARSHIP**

If a member's child has to give up an education scholarship or bursary due to changing schools upon a member's posting, the member may be reimbursed their child's educational costs up to the remaining value of that scholarship.

## **STUDENT REUNION TRAVEL**

If a member's child is studying at a location distant from the posting location, they may access funds towards the child's travel expenses to visit the member at their posting location. The member must already be eligible for Defence education assistance to be entitled to reunion travel.

## **EDUCATION LIAISON OFFICERS (EDLO)**

As part of DCO's education advisory services, we offer a range of other education support services for Defence children, including specialised staff to advise families on education issues (see the *EDLOs* handout), in-school support staff (see the *Defence School Mentors* handout), resources for relocating students and information about the different state and territory schooling systems.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

For more information about the Education Assistance Scheme or to be linked in with your local Education Liaison Officer, contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608 or email [education.supportprograms@defence.gov.au](mailto:education.supportprograms@defence.gov.au)

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

For more information about the Education Assistance Scheme email

[education.supportprograms@defence.gov.au](mailto:education.supportprograms@defence.gov.au)

For other family support services available, visit the Defence Community Organisation website at [www.defence.gov.au/dco](http://www.defence.gov.au/dco) or contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on

**1800 624 608** or email

[defencefamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au](mailto:defencefamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au)

