DEFENCE SCHOOL TRANSITION AIDE PROGRAM

DEFENCE TRANSITION AIDE (PRIMARY)

What is the Defence School Transition Aide Program?
The Defence School Transition Aide Program provides support to children of Australian Defence Force (ADF) Members and their families, particularly during their transition into and out of a school on posting.

The program aims to assist the smooth transition of mobile Australian Defence Force children from school to school and across the States and Territories.

Why do we have Defence School Transition Aides in schools?
The Defence School Transition Aide assists children and parents to quickly become part of the school community. They answer basic questions about the school and provide a link from families to the school. They also help build the school’s long term capacity to support mobile children and their families.

Children respond differently to relocation and change. Some make a positive transition into the new school. Others may experience difficulties. These difficulties may present in changes in behaviour, loss of self-esteem and diminished academic performance.

What does a Defence School Transition Aide do?
A Defence School Transition Aide is not a teacher but a member of the school team. The duties of the DSTA may include a mix of the following:

- Being a contact for new parents of mobile ADF children in the school
- Assisting the school and parents with enrolment procedures
- Introducing ADF parents and children to the school and its facilities
- Coordinating appropriate welcoming and farewelling activities for ADF children
- Developing within the school, the capability to maintain the rituals and processes established during the three year life of the DSTA program to support the ongoing needs of mobile children
- Organising materials for parents/carer’s of mobile children in relation to the school and broader educational issues
- Monitoring day to day children’s personal issues such as friendship
- Developing links with the Regional Education Liaison Officer (REDLO) in the local area and acting as a referral point for cases requiring specialised educational advice.
- Supporting individual children’s needs as required
- Maintaining contact with ADF families who are enrolled in the school
- Responding to routine telephone calls and enquiries associated with the position’s duties
• Contributing to the school newsletter items of interest to mobile families
• Providing opportunities for ADF families to meet other ADF families
• Enhancing the relationship between the school and its Defence community

It is not intended that the Defence School Transition Aide work with an individual child on a long term basis.

Where are the Defence School Transition Aides located?
Defence School Transition Aides are located in over 120 primary schools throughout Australia where there are significant numbers of Australian Defence Force families. Contact your local Defence Community Organisation or the Regional Education Liaison Officer (details below) for school locations.

What assistance is available if my child attends a school that does not have a Defence School Transition Aide?
Your child’s teacher is available to discuss your child’s transition into the new school. When you are ready to move to the next school, the teacher will help you gather appropriate documentation for the next school.

The Regional Education Liaison Officer is a trained and experienced teacher who is able to provide specialised information and educational support to Australian Defence Force families when they move from place to place. The Regional Education Liaison Officer is available to all Australian Defence Force families regardless of whether they have access to a Defence School Transition Aide.

The Defence Community Organisation has produced Moving Schools: Making the Transition Positive- A Teacher’s Resource Kit. Schools may contact the REDLO to obtain a copy of this resource.

The Defence School Transition Aide Program is funded by the Department of Defence through the Defence Community Organisation.

Regional Education Liaison Officers Contact Details

ACT/Wagga: 02 6265 8746  
NSW: 02 9377 3316  
VIC: 03 9282 3006  
SA: 08 8305 6648  
TAS: 03 6237 7191

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