What does a Defence School Transition Aide do?

DSTAs can provide the following assistance to Defence children and families:

- Helping parents and children to become familiar with a new school
- Coordinating welcome and farewell activities with the local community
- Supporting children at school during times of parental absence due to service obligations
- Monitoring children’s personal issues such as friendship and peer group problems, and classroom difficulties
- Contributing to school newsletters
- Maintaining contact with defence families enrolled in school.

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

Where are the Defence School Transition Aides located?

DSTAs are positioned in primary schools throughout Australia where there are significant numbers of ADF families. Visit the DCO website at www.defence.gov.au/dco for specific information.

What if there is no Defence School Transition Aide at my school?

Parents whose children attend a school where there is no DSTA should contact the school direct to discuss their child’s transition into or out of that school. Parents should also let schools know if a parent is absent from home due to deployment, exercises or courses.

Additionally, all Defence families have access to a Regional Education Liaison officer (REDLO) who can provide specialist education information and support to Defence families who are moving around the country. REDLOs are qualified and experienced teachers and are located in each state and territory.

Visit the DCO website at www.defence.gov.au/dco for more information on REDLOs.

More education assistance

The Education Assistance Scheme is aimed at minimising disruption to a child’s schooling due to posting. This scheme enables both primary and secondary students to access tutoring if required.

Assistance towards boarding and tuition costs for secondary school Years nine to twelve may also be available under certain circumstances.

More information about both these assistance schemes can be found by visiting the DCO website at www.defence.gov.au/dco or contacting your local REDLO.
Teacher’s Resource Kits (primary school volumes 1 and 2 and secondary school volume 1) are available to all schools with dependants of ADF members enrolled and can be obtained from the REDLO.

**Regional Education Liaison Officer contact details**

**Canberra and Wagga**
02 6265 8877  
redlo.act@defence.gov.au

**New South Wales**
02 9393 3316  
redlo.nsw@defence.gov.au

**Northern Queensland**
07 4753 6532  
redlo.nthqld@defence.gov.au

**Southern Queensland**
07 3354 0554  
redlo.sthqld@defence.gov.au

**Victoria**
03 9282 3006  
redlo.vic@defence.gov.au

**South Australia**
08 8305 6648  
redlo.sa@defence.gov.au

**Western Australia**
08 9591 9596 (Rockingham)  
08 9311 2379 (Leeuwin Barracks)  
redlo.wa@defence.gov.au

**Northern Territory**
08 8935 7904  
redlo.nt@defence.gov.au

**Tasmania**
03 6237 7191  
redlo.tas@defence.gov.au