



# Injured or ill ADF members

## Defence Community Organisation

### Financial and emotional support for injured or ill ADF members

**If an ADF member is hospitalised through injury or illness while away from home, a family member or close friend can access financial assistance to visit and support them.**

The Australians Dangerously Ill Scheme, or AUSDIL, allows an ADF member who has been hospitalised through serious injury or illness to be supported by a nominated family member or close friend.

The visitor can receive transport, accommodation, meals and necessary support so that they can assist the recovery of the ADF member.

#### **When is assistance provided?**

AUSDIL assistance is provided when the member has been hospitalised for serious or life-threatening injury or illness, including mental health conditions.

A parent or guardian may also visit an ADF member under 18 who requires medical treatment (the member does not have to be seriously ill in this case).

A medical professional must confirm that the nominated person's support would positively benefit the member's wellbeing or recovery, and, along with the member's commanding officer, will initiate the AUSDIL request.

Normally, only one visitor per member may be approved for any one illness or injury.

#### **What assistance is provided?**

Approved visitors will have their travel costs covered, including:

- return transport to the hospitalised member's location,

- accommodation for the duration of the approved visit,
- reasonable cost of meals (excluding alcoholic beverages), and
- travel insurance for visits overseas.

When the nominated person cannot travel without a carer or appropriate support (for example, if the person is physically handicapped or elderly), we also cover the costs for an attendant of their choice to accompany them.

Approval for any one visit is usually up to seven consecutive days.

#### **What else does DCO do?**

In addition to organising transport and accommodation for the visiting person, DCO can assist with other practical concerns like administration related to the medical treatment or liaising with units and medical personnel.

We can also provide emotional and practical support to the family in the form of social work intervention, advice on the care and rehabilitation of the ADF member, or referral to appropriate community support and services.

#### **Find out more**

You can call the Defence Family Helpline on **1800 624 608** for any queries about AUSDIL or the support available.

