

Education NORTHERN TERRITORY

*...ence capability by delivering
...ervices, information and program
...d commanders of the Australian*



DCO supports ADF families in peace and war

- CRISIS SUPPORT 24 HOURS/7 DAYS
- COUNSELLING
- RELOCATION ASSISTANCE
- DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT
- EDUCATION**
- SPECIAL NEEDS
- CHILD CARE
- EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE
- COMMUNITY GROUP FUNDING
- EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
- INFORMATION AND REFERRAL



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Foreword

Welcome to your new posting location

Many of you have travelled long distances to your new posting location and are now faced with the many challenges of a mobile lifestyle—adjusting to new routines, navigating new environments, finding a house, and finding a school for your children.

Defence is committed to providing Defence families with an educational advisory service and a range of support measures to help minimise the negative impacts on family functioning as a result of their mobile lifestyle.

Defence families have unique educational needs due to their mobile lifestyle. The Defence Community Organisation (DCO) is well placed to provide a targeted and tailored service that assists whenever a need arises.

As part of DCO, Regional Education Liaison Officers (REDLO) are highly trained professional officers whose educational background equips them to provide relevant and quality educational advice and guidance to all ADF families.

The REDLO is the key pivotal point in this education package as they provide the link for you and your family and can assist you in accessing the type of support that meets the needs of your children.

I hope the information contained in this booklet assists with making your relocation experience a positive one for you and your family. Children are our most valuable resource and their education is of paramount importance, therefore identifying an appropriate school is a key factor to a smooth transition in your new locality.

Good luck and remember, the Defence Community Organisation, the REDLO and other staff in our area offices are available to assist you and your families.



Michael Callan

Director General
Defence Community
Organisation

On behalf of Defence Community Organisation Darwin, I would like to welcome you and your family to the Northern Territory.

The information in this booklet is designed to assist you in preparing your children for transferring into the Northern Territory education system in both the public and private sectors. It provides advice regarding appropriate year placement, enrolment procedures, tuition support, special needs support and primary, secondary and tertiary schooling, including the location of primary and secondary schools by region.

In the Northern Territory we are fortunate to have 16 Defence School Transition Aides (DSTAs) in primary schools and 6 Defence Transition Mentors (DTMs) in secondary schools where there is a significant number of enrolments from Australian Defence Force families.

As well as educational support, DCO provides a comprehensive range of social work, family liaison and military liaison support through our Darwin and Tindal offices.

The Top End defence operations are high tempo, and DCO recognises the stresses and strains this puts on families. We will do all we can to enhance your wellbeing, and we encourage you to use our services.

I look forward to supporting you and your children while you are in the Northern Territory. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any educational concerns.

Michael Gubbins

Regional Education Liaison Officer – Northern Territory
Defence Community Organisation
Tel: (08) 8935 7900
Fax: (08) 8935 7901
Email: redlo.nt@defence.gov.au

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The information in this book is current at the time of printing.

8th edition, 2011

Defence Community Organisation Services

The Defence Community Organisation (DCO) provides confidential services to the Australian Defence Force (ADF), its members and their families through a broad range of specialised services.

DCO supports Commanders, members and their families by providing assistance in case of accident, illness, hospitalisation, financial difficulty, managing casualties and estates, and at times of bereavement.

DCO NT contact details are:

DCO Darwin

3 Tybell St
Winnellie NT 0820

Postal address:
PMB 13
Winnellie NT 0821

Tel: (08) 8935 7900
Email: dco.darwin@defence.gov.au

DCO Tindal

Tindal Community Centre
Easton Pde
Tindal NT 0853
Tel: (08) 8973 7134
Email: dco.tindal@defence.gov.au

Your local DCO team employs the following staff:

Defence Social Workers are qualified professionals trained to assist members and their families to address a wide range of personal, family and work-related issues in a confidential setting.

Military Support Officers (MSOs) are uniformed personnel from the three Services who offer support and assistance to members and their families, and undertake a liaison function with units and Command.

Family Liaison Officers (FLOs) assist members and families to settle into new communities, and are a source of information about local and Australian Defence Force resources and support activities.

Regional Education Liaison Officers (REDLOs) are qualified, experienced teachers who assist Defence families with matters related to education. They provide information, advice, referrals and specialised assistance to Service members and their families, the ADF and education systems on education matters. REDLOs provide advice on the impact of posting mobility on education. They can assist with the transition between the various state and territory primary, secondary and tertiary education systems.

REDLO NT can be contacted on:

Tel: (08) 8935 7900
Email: redlo.nt@defence.gov.au

Education Assistance Scheme (EAS)

Defence recognises that the mobile lifestyle can create particular challenges for school-aged children. One purpose of the EAS is to assist with the cost of additional educational services such as tuition support for children. The aim of this assistance is to overcome any immediate difficulties and disruption that have impacted on the child's learning due to a member's posting.

In this tuition situation, the basic elements of the EAS are as follows:

- Tuition must be provided by a qualified person or an accredited organisation.
- Tuition must be provided within 18 months of the child enrolling at the new school.
- The principal or class teacher certifies that the tuition is required.
- Tuition can be provided for one hour per week, per subject.
- For previously studied compulsory subjects, this tuition can last for 14 weeks.
- For compulsory subjects not previously studied, this tuition can be for up to six months.
- In Years 10, 11 or 12 some tuition can last for the school year.
- Tuition may be undertaken during or outside school hours.
- Tuition may take the form of web-based support.
- The CO/OC of the member's unit or REDLO gives approval for the 14 weeks of tuition.
- There is provision for an extension of EAS if the disruption was not reduced to a reasonable degree by the initial tuition.

Other aspects covered by the EAS include:

- boarding assistance for students in Years 9, 10, 11 or 12 who do not relocate on posting with their family
- accommodation costs, in certain circumstances, for tertiary students
- student reunion travel for students who board or are at a tertiary institution



- assistance for assessment, therapy and additional support for special needs students who were receiving this support in their previous posting and who are unable to access such services in the government system in the new state/territory – provided they have been recognised by Defence under the Dependants with Special Needs (DWSN) policy
- compensation to a member whose child forfeits a scholarship or bursary because of the member posting to another locality.

The Education Assistance Scheme also contains a variety of discretionary clauses relating to the above provisions.

Under some elements of the scheme, there remains a parental contribution component.

Full details of the Education Assistance Scheme are available at Pay and Condition Manual (PACMAN), Vol. 2 Ch 8 Part 4. A copy is available online at Internet: www.defence.gov.au/dpe/pac

Application forms are available on DEFWEB:

Tutoring Assistance	AD 301
Tutoring Assistance (Discretionary)	AD 301-1
Boarding Assistance	AD 302
Tertiary Assistance	AD 303

Note: Child tuition assistance under the Education Assistance Scheme is not Fringe Benefits Tax reportable.

For further assistance or advice, please contact your local REDLO.

Dependants with Special Needs (DWSN)

ADF members who have dependants with special needs (DWSN) attending a registered primary or secondary school full-time may be eligible for education-related assistance. This is detailed in the Pay and Conditions Manual (PACMAN), Vol. 2, Ch 8, parts 4 and 6, and has been mentioned previously in this booklet. However, Defence recognises that families who have a dependant with a recognised special need can face additional problems when it comes time to relocate. For this reason there is a policy that may assist families at this time.

PACMAN Vol. 2 Ch 8 Part 6 details this policy, explaining who is eligible, the recognition process, the special needs assistance, and other general conditions and provisions. Families who wish to be recognised or who wish to find out what is available under this instruction should read the instruction and contact their local DCO office. A CD ROM explaining the process is available from the local Office to assist members in completing an application.

Educational Aspects of PACMAN Vol. 2 Ch 8 Part 6

Aspects of the DWSN policy relate directly to educational issues and these are highlighted below:

- Families with school-aged children who have been recognised by Defence under the DWSN policy may be eligible for a special needs pre-posting visit. This visit, at Commonwealth expense, is to enable the family to plan adequately and organise educational arrangements for the child with special needs at the gaining locality where this cannot be done from the old locality and when it is necessary for the child with special needs to have direct contact with relevant education authorities/institutions. It should be pointed out that, in most instances, such pre-posting visits are not necessary, as appropriate placement of a special needs child can be achieved by the provision of all appropriate documentation well in advance to the relevant education authorities in the new locality. The services and advice of the REDLO can be accessed in order to achieve this placement.
- Financial assistance may be available to families with children requiring occupational therapy or speech therapy in the new locality where the state/territory enforces a waiting period. This assistance is a stop-gap provided until the state/territory system can assume responsibility. The eligibility for, and type of, support are aligned with the benchmark standard in the new state or territory.
- A member who has an academically gifted and talented child may apply to be recognised as DWSN under PACMAN Vol. 2 Ch 8 Part 6. The child must be assessed as academically gifted and talented by a psychologist with relevant qualifications and experience in the assessment of children, in that the child achieves a score at or above the 95th percentile on any of the following:
 - a) any individual or group IQ test
 - b) a subscale (e.g. verbal or performance) of an individual IQ test
 - c) any standardised test of achievement.
- Other than a special needs pre-posting visit (SNPPV), the only assistance available under PACMAN is assistance with the provision of housing in the locality of the child's education institution. The member is not eligible for either the payment or reimbursement by Defence of any fees associated with the education of the child.

Please read PACMAN Vol. 2 Ch 8 Part 6, and contact your local DCO office for further information about all aspects of this policy.

Age of Entry for Schooling

The age of entry to formal schooling varies from state to state/territory and each sets its own guidelines. As you can see from the table below, a child may be eligible to commence schooling in one state but not eligible to do so in another. For further information or to discuss any concerns about age of entry, contact the REDLO.



State/territory	Name of first year	Eligibility	Date of commencement
Australian Capital Territory (ACT)	Kindergarten	Five years of age on or before 30 April	January of that year
New South Wales (NSW)	Kindergarten	Five years of age on or before 31 July	January of that year
Northern Territory (NT)	Transition	Five years of age on or before 30 June	January of that year
Queensland (QLD)	Preparatory	Five years of age on or before 30 June	January of that year
South Australia (SA)	Reception	Five years of age	The beginning of the term after the child turns five years of age
Tasmania (TAS)	Preparatory	Five years of age on or by 1 January in any year	Must start school in that year
Victoria (VIC)	Preparatory	Five years of age on or before 30 April	January of that year
Western Australia (WA)	Pre-primary	Five years of age on or before 30 June	January of that year

On the Move Again

Moving is a major life change. It is an event filled with a variety of emotions, such as excitement, anticipation, fear, sadness, anxiety, confusion and optimism. Recognise that your children may particularly experience a sense of loss as a result of a move. It takes time to work through this loss. Encourage children to express their emotions. Accept their feelings and respond with understanding. By expressing your own feelings in healthy ways, children will recognise that they are not alone in their feelings.

Encourage children to keep a scrapbook or photo album of their former community, school, home and friends. Allow children to maintain contact with former friends for as long as necessary (telephone, email, letters, photographs etc.).

Be prepared for signs of stress from children of any age. Preschoolers may regress to thumb-sucking, baby talk or other behaviour they had left behind. School-aged children may intensify natural habits; e.g. a shy child may become more shy, an aggressive child more aggressive.

Talk to them about the posting – early and often. Give your child as much information as possible before the move; more lead time means more time for the child to get used to the idea. Having information or knowledge about the new location can also increase the likelihood of making a smooth and positive transition.

The most important aspect of settling children into any environment, whether it is school or not, is to make them feel secure. This security may just be a feeling that the family is together, or that someone will be there when they need to talk. Younger children may feel more secure if they have a treasured possession with them.

After the move, resume normal family routines as soon as possible (bedtime, chores, discipline, story time, traditions). Consider allocating special time to just sit down with your child to discuss his/her day, as well as sharing items about your day. These few minutes spent with your child will probably confirm in your child's mind your interest in all that he/she is doing. Congratulate your child on managing the challenging experience of moving.

Children need time to adjust. In general it takes children six months to adjust to a move. If you have concerns about your child's adjustment, contact a GP, the school counsellor or other health professional.

Changing Schools

So, your family has another posting?

Among other challenges and opportunities that this event entails, there is that unenviable task of preparing your child for a change in schools. Here are some hints that may help your child during this transition.

Before you leave:

- Notify the present school of the move
- Ask the school for reports, samples of work and other relevant information for collection prior to departure
- Prepare a student information portfolio for each child (see page 9)
- Return all library items, texts, equipment etc. that belong to the school
- Ensure all outstanding fees are paid
- Encourage your child to collect mementos, gather contact details and email addresses of friends
- Contact the REDLO for information on education in the new location
- Contact the new school for enrolment forms, school prospectus, curriculum details, web address and other details required
- Explore the new school via the internet if possible
- Ensure that all information needed to enrol at the new school is carried with you.

On arrival:

- Make an appointment with the principal or relevant enrolment officer
- Discuss your child's strengths and weaknesses, special needs (if applicable), appropriate year level placement, student information portfolio, subject choices etc.
- Accompany your child on a tour of the school
- Familiarise yourself with the established forms of communication between the school and the home
- Allow approximately four weeks for your child to settle in and for teachers to get to know them, then ring the school to discuss progress
- Access the Education Assistance Scheme if appropriate
- Contact the REDLO for further assistance or advice if required. Issues may include: handwriting styles, behaviour management, communication with the school, school behaviour management, exclusion and expulsion etc.

As a parent it may be worth noting that, in April 1989, the members of the Australian Education Council accepted the recommendation that 'systems accept differences in handwriting styles and that this information be distributed to teachers showing the accepted styles', and that 'all Australian government school systems will now accept that a child taught a handwriting style in one state will not have to change it on transfer to another state which teaches a different style'.



State Education Departments

Address	Telephone/Fax	Website
Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Department of Education and Training 186 Reed Street, Greenway ACT 2900	Tel: (02) 6207 5111 Fax: (02) 6205 9333	www.det.act.gov.au
New South Wales (NSW) NSW Department of Education and Training GPO Box 33, Sydney NSW 2001	Tel: (02) 9561 8000	www.schools.nsw.edu.au
Northern Territory (NT) Department Education and Training GPO Box 4821, Darwin NT 0801	Tel: (08) 8999 5659 Fax: (08) 8901 1326	www.det.nt.gov.au
Queensland (QLD) Department of Education and Training 30 Mary Street, Brisbane QLD 4000	Tel: (07) 3237 0111	www.education.qld.gov.au
South Australia (SA) Department of Education and Children's Services 31 Flinders Street, Adelaide SA 5000	Tel: (08) 8226 1000 Tel: 1800 088 158	www.decs.sa.gov.au
Tasmania (TAS) Department of Education 116 Bathurst Street, Hobart TAS 7000	Tel: 1300 135 513 Fax: (03) 6231 1576	www.education.tas.gov.au
Victoria (VIC) Department of Education and Early Childhood Development 2 Treasury Place, Melbourne VIC 3000	Tel: (03) 9637 2000	www.education.vic.gov.au
Western Australia (WA) Department of Education 151 Royal Street, East Perth WA 6004	Tel: (08) 9264 4111 Fax: (08) 9264 5005	www.det.wa.edu.au

Student Information Portfolio

A student information portfolio is a collection of materials designed to show your child's schooling experience and achievements. Constructing the portfolio can be a cooperative project with your child and can help generate confidence and enthusiasm for a move.

A digital student information portfolio has been developed by DCO. It is an interactive multimedia program that captures the academic, sporting, cultural and social history of a child over each year of their schooling. A copy of this digital version can be obtained from your local REDLO or DCO office.

A well-constructed portfolio can provide a documented history of the student's progress. It can also provide details about the student to assist the new school in placing the student in an appropriate year level. Developing this portfolio can encourage your child to feel he/she is making a contribution to his/her schooling and help you to relate more confidently to the new school.

If you are unable to access the digital program then a sturdy two-ring binder and a number of clear plastic inserts or a display book is suitable for the portfolio.

Suggested items for inclusion are:

- **Introductory section**
 - Personal details
 - A recent photograph
 - Details of siblings at the same school
 - Copy of birth certificate
 - Immunisation record
 - Baptismal certificate (if applicable).
- **School information**
 - Schooling history sheet
 - Current subjects and levels
 - Reports
 - Dated samples of student's work
 - Awards and certificates.

- **Special information**
 - Guidance assessment reports, medical reports, school recommendations
 - Involvement with school-based activities e.g. canteen duty, coaching or umpiring a sporting team, etc.
- **Co-curricular activities**
 - Sports, hobbies, club membership
 - Art, music, drama.

Resources

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has developed two resources to assist schools and parents when students change schools.

- Changing Schools is a kit for parents, containing an information booklet and a checklist brochure
- Interstate Student Data Transfer Note – with parental approval, this system allows student information to be transferred from the old school in one state or territory to the new school in another.

Further information can be obtained from:

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

PO Box 9880
Canberra City ACT 2601

General enquiries: 1300 363 079
Canberra switchboard: (02) 6240 8111

Copies of the Changing Schools booklet and brochure can be accessed at
Internet: www.deewr.gov.au

Information on the transfer note can be found at
Internet: www.mceecdya.edu.au

Resources

Publications Available From Your Local DCO Office

Home is where the family is – a book to help parents assist their children to cope with important changes in their life, changing homes and changing schools. A very helpful book when Defence families are posted with young children.

Parenting at home and away – discusses how parents can learn to cope with being away from their children and how they can feel comfortable integrating back into family life. Particularly written for deployed Defence personnel who are parents.

Travelling teens: A parents' guide to family relocation – covers the issues that teenagers are likely to be grappling with at this stage of their life. This book provides expert advice on how to support teenagers during the process of moving, to make what is often a difficult situation into a positive experience.

Travelling teens Z-card – a great resource for teenagers with lots of tips to help make moving easier.

Defence Community Organisation brochures:

The Regional Education Liaison Officer – describes the services offered by the REDLO.

Supporting the Defence Community – outlines the services, information and programs available through DCO.

Changing Schools Checklist – contains hints to help your child change schools.

Education Assistance – outlines the different types of support and financial assistance available under the Education Assistance Scheme.

Education Assistance – Overview of the Application Process – contains a step-by-step guide on how to apply for support.

Defence School Transition Aide – describes the role of the Defence School Transition Aide (DSTA) in primary schools.

Defence Transition Mentor – describes the role of the Defence Transition Mentor (DTM) in secondary schools.

Parental Involvement in School Community – How you can help

All parents are encouraged to play an active part in their local school community. Depending on your skills, experience and personal interests, there are many different ways in which you can be involved in your child's education.

Classroom help is always welcomed and may include listening to children read, involvement with learning assistance programs, setting up activities or helping with electives. You may be surprised at the skills or activities you will be able to offer or assist with.

Excursions take children to interesting and informative places. Volunteers can enjoy these outings too, while assisting the teachers with the organisation and supervision of the children.

School camps are a common activity for many schools, and a good way to enjoy the less formal context of out-of-school learning.

Tuckshop/canteen activities are part of the normal day-to-day life in most schools, and a great way to involve parents with preparation and serving of food, usually during school hours.

Fundraising at some time is a part of most school activities. This may include participating in auctions, barbeques, book fairs, t-shirt printing or lolly drives. Parents have the opportunity to contribute to this activity with new and exciting ideas.

Library assistance is usually welcomed by all resource centre staff. Covering, repairing, sorting and shelving books are ongoing tasks that are essential to ensure that children gain maximum access to borrowing resources.

Working bees are a great way to help beautify the surroundings of your school, and can involve the whole family in planting bulbs, paving, weeding or small maintenance jobs around that favourite playground.

Parents Associations – most schools have associations which provide a forum for parents to have an input into the administration of the school. Parents and Citizens (P&C) or Parents and Friends (P&F) Associations are also a great way for Defence families to meet other families and become part of the local community. Contact your schools for meeting dates and times.

Contact your school to be involved. You will benefit from being an active participant, as will your child and the school community. Never underestimate your own contribution, because you have skills and attributes no one else does. You also have a vested interest in your own family and their future.

Participate, and enjoy the benefits.

Northern Territory Public School Term Dates

2011	2012
<p>Term 1 Monday 24 January to Friday 1 April</p> <p>Students resume Tuesday 25 January</p> <p>Mid-semester break Monday 4 April to Friday 8 April</p>	<p>Term 1 Monday 30 January to Thursday 5 April</p> <p>Students resume Tuesday 31 January</p> <p>Easter break Friday 6 April to Monday 9 April</p> <p>Mid-semester break Monday 9 April to Friday 13 April</p>
<p>Term 2 Monday 11 April to Friday 24 June (11 weeks)</p> <p>Easter break Friday 22 April to Monday 25 April</p> <p>Semester break Monday 27 June to Friday 22 July</p>	<p>Term 2 Monday 16 April to Friday 22 June</p> <p>Semester break Monday 25 June to Friday 20 July</p>
<p>Term 3 Monday 25 July to Friday 30 September</p> <p>Students resume Tuesday 26 July</p> <p>Mid-semester break Monday 3 October to Friday 7 October</p>	<p>Term 3 Monday 23 July to Friday 28 September</p> <p>Students resume Tuesday 24 July</p> <p>Mid-semester break Monday 1 October to Friday 5 October</p>
<p>Term 4 Monday 10 October to Friday 16 December</p>	<p>Term 4 Monday 8 October to Friday 14 December</p>

Note: Some non-government schools do not follow this calendar. Please check with your non-government school to confirm their school term dates.

Northern Territory Education and Children's Services

The Northern Territory government education system provides high-quality choices from preschool to tertiary level. A parallel system of education is operated on a fee-paying basis by religious and other independent organisations.

Preschools, primary schools and secondary schools in the Northern Territory are well-staffed and well-equipped. Education in the Territory is a partnership between students, teachers, the Northern Territory Department of Employment, Education and Training, interested community members, businesses, and parents and guardians.

Young Territorians have a broad range of higher education and vocational education and training options, along with the unique learning opportunities on offer at Charles Darwin University.

NT Education System Contacts

NT Department of Education and Training (DET)

GPO Box 4821
Darwin NT 0800
Tel: (08) 8999 5659
Fax: (08) 8901 1326
Internet: www.det.nt.gov.au

Katherine Region DET

PO Box 1246
Katherine NT 0851
Tel: (08) 8973 8904

Catholic Education Office

PO Box 219
Berrimah NT 0828
Tel: (08) 8984 1400
Fax: (08) 8984 1444
Email: admin@nt.catholic.edu.au
Internet: www.nt.catholic.edu.au

NT Christian Schools Association

PO Box 228
Sanderson NT 0813
Tel: (08) 8920 4355
Fax: (08) 8920 4399
Email: admin@ntcsa.nt.edu.au
Internet: www.ntcsa.nt.edu.au

Association of Independent Schools of the Northern Territory

GPO Box 2085
Darwin NT 0801
Tel: (08) 8981 8668
Fax: (08) 8941 3061
Email: admin@aisnt.asn.au
Internet: www.aisnt.asn.au

Non- or Pre-Compulsory Education

Preschool education is widely available and, although it is not compulsory, is regarded as an important first step in education. Children attend preschool 12 hours per week. Each preschool, in consultation with parents, decides on the schedule. There is a preschool on the grounds of most urban government primary schools.

Compulsory Education

Education is compulsory for children between six and the completion of year 10, after which they all must participate in education, training or employment until they turn 17. All schools teach a common curriculum emphasising children's physical, intellectual and social development. Individual schools also develop school-based programs to meet the needs of their students.

All government schools are co-educational and parents are free to apply to enrol their children at the school of their choice. Some schools may limit the enrolment of children to those who reside within a certain geographical area, to avoid overcrowding. The Enrolment/Priority Enrolment policy for NT government schools can be found at
Internet: www.det.nt.gov.au.

Facilities

All government and non-government primary schools are co-educational. Most schools group students in classes according to year level but there are also many classes that combine year levels, such as

Transition/Year 1 or Year 2/Year 3. The latter is an attractive option for mobile children because the teacher can determine over time the level in which the child fits most comfortably.

Eligibility

Children may be enrolled in a government school in January if they turn five before 30 June that year. Private schools generally have only one intake at the beginning of the year.

The School Year

The school year begins in late January and is divided into four terms of 10 weeks (or occasionally 11). There is a one-week vacation at the end of Term 1 and Term 3, and a six-week vacation during December and January. Students also have a four-week break at the end of Term 2.

Hours

The school day usually commences at 8am and finishes at 2.30pm, because of the heat in the tropics. There may be small variances at individual schools. (Government departments begin work at 8am and finish at 4.21pm.)

Enrolment

Parents may enrol a child in their local primary school by contacting the school directly. Schools are open for enrolments during the week before school starts in January, and then throughout the year as mobile students arrive. The enrolment of students in preschool or Transition, however, depends on age-related regulations.

Uniforms

All students in government schools from Transition to Year 9 are required to wear an authorised school uniform whilst on school premises and when attending official school activities during and after school hours. While not compulsory for senior students, School Councils can make a determination on the policy as it applies to senior students in their school. In non-government schools uniforms are compulsory.

Transport

Free public transport is provided to the nearest government and non-government school, provided that the distance is in excess of a 5km radius between home and school. For bus schedule enquiries, contact Darwinbus.

Tel: (08) 8924 7666

Email: darwinbus.nt.@nt.gov.au

For school bus schedules in Katherine contact the local school.

Dental Care

All Territory school students receive free dental care. Dental therapists visit schools and aim to review and treat all students annually. Secondary students can visit their local government dental clinic to receive free treatment.

Transition/Primary School

The first year of primary school in the Northern Territory is known as Transition, a period which helps prepare children for formal learning. Children then proceed to Year 1.

Children generally spend around seven years in primary school, progressing from Transition to Year 6. The primary school curriculum covers English, mathematics, science, studies of society and the environment, health and physical education, and the arts. Languages other than English are introduced wherever possible. Information technology, including computer education, is not regarded as a separate subject but is taught across the curriculum.

All schools carefully monitor the progress of each student and report regularly to parents. In the Northern Territory, students in Years 3, 5 and 7 are assessed through the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Data from this program provide information on one aspect of student achievement, and are used in conjunction with ongoing school assessment to provide a comprehensive picture of individual student learning.

Defence School Transition Aides

The Defence School Transition Aide (DSTA) program was established to provide ‘hands on’ support in schools to ADF members and their families. The DSTA can assist in managing the smooth transition of a mobile lifestyle. The DSTA assists the child to settle into the new school and gives support if needed when the parent is deployed or away for an extended time. The DSTA also helps the child with the transition to the next school by arranging a farewell activity.

DSTAs are located at the following schools:

Bakewell Primary School
Tel: (08) 8931 0487

Casuarina Street Primary School
Tel: (08) 8971 2643

Driver Primary School
Tel: (08) 8935 9000

Durack Primary School
Tel: (08) 8935 9259

Katherine South Primary School
Tel: (08) 8972 1277

Larrakeyah Primary School
Tel: (08) 8981 3211

Ludmilla Primary School
Tel: (08) 8999 3233

Leanyer Primary School
Tel: (08) 8927 4022

Marrara Christian School
Tel: (08) 8920 2000

Palmerston Christian School
Tel: (08) 8932 3377

Stuart Park Primary School
Tel: (08) 8981 6260

St Mary's Primary School
Tel: (08) 8981 9796

Sacred Heart Primary School
Tel: (08) 8932 2888

St Joseph's College
Tel: (08) 8972 3555

Wanguri Primary School
Tel: (08) 8927 1655

Rosebery Primary School
Tel: (08) 8930 5100

Defence Transition Mentors (Secondary)

The Defence Transition Mentor (DTM) positions were established as part of the Defence School Transition Aide program. The DTM provides information and support to mobile young people from Australian Defence Force families. The DTM will develop programs, strategies and resources to assist the school with long-term support of mobile young people.

DTMs are located at the following schools:

Casuarina Senior College
Tel: (08) 8920 1211

Darwin High School
Tel: (08) 8999 1222

Darwin Middle School
Tel: (08) 8942 5200

Katherine High School
Tel: (08) 8973 8200

Palmerston Senior College
Tel: (08) 8935 0222

Rosebery Middle School
Tel: (08) 8930 5200

Secondary Education

Secondary education is offered through middle schools (Years 7 to 9) and senior secondary schools or colleges (Years 10 to 12) in all major centres in the Northern Territory. Some schools, such as St Joseph's in Katherine and Palmerston Christian School in Palmerston, offer high school studies only through to Year 10.

Hours

Secondary students normally begin their day at 8am and finish at 2.30pm. The times may vary slightly at different schools.

Enrolment

Parents may enrol a child in their local middle school or senior secondary college by contacting the school directly. Most senior secondary colleges assist Defence students to select electives by email or fax before coming to the Northern Territory if there is contact in advance.

Uniform

Government middle schools have a compulsory uniform. Government senior secondary colleges have no compulsory uniform, although each school will have a school shirt or sports outfit that is worn on special occasions. Non-government high schools have a compulsory uniform.

Senior Secondary Schooling

Northern Territory Certificate of Education

Most students choose to continue their education through senior secondary studies in Years 11 and 12, leading to the Northern Territory Certificate of Education (NTCE). The Northern Territory Board of Studies issues the certificate to students who meet the requirements and levels of achievement during their senior secondary studies. The NTCE is recognised as an entry qualification by Australian universities and colleges, including Charles Darwin University.

Currently, there are two levels: Stage 1, generally Year 11; and Stage 2, generally Year 12. Although most students complete the certificate in two years, it can be done part-time for as many years as required. At least 22 approved units must be studied.

However, gradual changes to the NTCE commenced in 2009, and are being phased in over time. Details of these changes can be found on the DET website. Internet: www.det.nt.gov.au

A wide range of accredited courses ensures that students' interests and abilities are catered for. There are also alternative programs designed to meet particular student needs, abilities and career aspirations, including Vocational Education and Training. Subject lists are available through each Territory high school. Careers advisers can help with subject selection.

Kormilda College is the only school in the Northern Territory that offers the International Baccalaureate.

Tertiary Entrance Rank

The Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER) is one of the factors universities use to determine whether a student is eligible for a course. The Northern Territory Certificate of Education and TER issued to Northern Territory students are recognised nationally.

Students from the Northern Territory apply to and are accepted to universities throughout Australia and beyond.

Transferring to the Northern Territory

Students moving to the Northern Territory during their senior secondary school years can gain credit towards their Northern Territory Certificate of Education for courses completed in Year 11 at their previous school.

Year 12 subjects completed in other states may also gain credit towards the Northern Territory Certificate of Education, but cannot contribute to a TER unless the result was achieved in South Australia.

Distance Education and Adult Education

The Northern Territory Open Education Centre offers secondary education through distance learning to high school students who need access to particular courses that may not be offered at their own high school, and to adults wanting to complete their high school education.

Tel: (08) 8922 2292

Internet: www.ntoec.nt.edu.au

Email: info.ntoec@ntschoools.net

Casuarina Senior College offers non-award Adult Night Classes in a very wide range of subjects.

Tel: (08) 8920 1200

Internet: www.csc.nt.edu.au

Email: csc.nightclasses@ntschoools.net

Tertiary Education

Charles Darwin University (CDU) offers a wide range of higher education degrees from bachelor level through to doctorates. CDU also provides a large range of vocational education and training courses (VET). The main campus is in Darwin and there are CDU campuses in most of the other major Territory centres.

Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma rural studies programs are available at the Rural College in Katherine, with a portion of many courses taught at the university's commercial cattle property, Mataranka Station.

The CDU Katherine campus offers a range of courses including Office Skills, Business, Child Care, Information Technology, Horticulture, Transport and Distribution, as well as a Driver Education Program.

Information on all courses is available by contacting the Uni Info Shop.

Tel: 1800 061 963 (freecall)

Internet: www.cdu.edu.au

Assistance for Children with Special Needs

A range of services is available in the Northern Territory for children with disabilities and additional learning needs. The types of educational options available are:

- Inclusion in regular classrooms with consultative support
- Inclusion in regular classrooms with additional support
- Inclusion in regular classrooms with withdrawal support
- Special school settings.

Students with special needs are defined as those who have been identified as having intellectual/cognitive, sensory, physical, social/emotional, language/communication, multiple, or specific learning disabilities.

Internet: www.det.nt.gov.au/students/support-assistance/special-education-disability

Special education students have the right to access an inclusive curriculum that is broad, balanced and relevant, and that meets individual needs. All schools in the Northern Territory make this provision, and parents or caregivers are able to select either a mainstream school or a special placement for their child. Advice or assistance with this selection is available through the Student Services Division on (08) 8920 5600.

The Student Services Branch of the Department of Education and Training provides support services, specialised equipment and resources and professional development activities for school staff. Information for accessing specific programs and assessments are available from all schools. Specialist knowledge and support is available in the following areas:

- Special education
- Early childhood intervention
- Hearing impairment
- Vision impairment
- Behaviour management
- School psychologist/guidance
- Transition from school.

The Children’s Development Team includes occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech pathologists and supporting staff. These services are provided to babies, toddlers, children and teenagers who may be having problems related to a disability or a delay in development.

Staff in schools who provide direct and consultative support to the school staff include special education teachers and assistants, school counsellors, home liaison officers, school nurses, wellbeing and behaviour management advisers and inclusion support assistants.

In remote locations such as Katherine, access to specialised services may be limited.

Northern Territory School Information

Darwin

Schools in dark type are Catholic or independent schools.

*Indicates the school has a Defence School Transition Aide (DSTA) or Defence Transition Mentor (DTM).

School websites can be found by clicking on the individual school at Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au

	Telephone	Facsimile
Alawa Preschool	(08) 8985 2059	(08) 8927 1695
Alawa Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/alawa	(08) 8927 9122	(08) 8927 1695
Anula Preschool	(08) 8927 9346	(08) 8927 4561
Anula Primary School	(08) 8927 9477	(08) 8927 4561
Casuarina Senior College Internet: www.csc.nt.edu.au	(08) 8920 1211	(08) 8927 2421
Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus, Darwin Internet: www.cdu.edu.au	1800 061 963	(08) 8946 6642
* Darwin High School Internet: www.darwinhigh.nt.edu.au	(08) 8999 1222	(08) 8981 2137
* Darwin Middle School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/darwinhs	(08) 8942 5200	(08) 8942 5211
Dripstone High School Internet: www.darwinmiddle.nt.edu.au	(08) 8920 2299	(08) 8927 8898
The Essington School Internet: www.essington.nt.edu.au	(08) 8948 1255	(08) 8948 1910
Henbury Senior Years Sub-School Internet: www.henbury.nt.edu.au (Special School, Yrs 10–12)	(08) 8927 5088	(08) 8927 3367

Holy Family Early Learning Centre Rainbows (Alternative to preschool for 3–5 year olds)	(08) 8927 6188	(08) 8945 2254
Holy Family Primary School Internet: http://holyfamily.nt.catholic.edu.au/	(08) 8927 6188	(08) 8945 2254
Holy Spirit Learning Centre	(08) 8927 3411	(08) 8927 9971
Holy Spirit Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/holyspirit	(08) 8927 3411	(08) 8927 9971
Jingili Preschool	(08) 8985 3495	(08) 8985 3213
Jingili Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/jingili	(08) 8985 1555	(08) 8985 3213
Karama Preschool	(08) 8927 9394	(08) 8945 0261
Karama Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/karama	(08) 8927 5111	(08) 8945 0261
Kids Force Preschool (RAAF Base Darwin)	(08) 8942 1579	(08) 8942 1579
Kormilda College www.kormilda.nt.edu.au	(08) 8922 1611	(08) 8947 0792
Larrakeyah Preschool	(08) 8981 9091	(08) 8981 9062
* Larrakeyah Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/larrakeyah	(08) 8981 3211	(08) 8981 9062
Leanyer Preschool	(08) 8927 2894	(08) 8927 2566
* Leanyer Primary School Internet: www.schools.net.au/leanyer	(08) 8927 4022	(08) 8927 2566
Ludmilla Preschool	(08) 8999 3236	(08) 8999 3232
* Ludmilla Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/ludmilla	(08) 8999 3233	(08) 8999 3232
Malak Preschool	(08) 8927 5591	(08) 8945 3725
Malak Primary School Internet: www.schools.net.au/malak	(08) 8927 9366	(08) 8945 1901
Manunda Terrace Preschool	(08) 8945 2929	(08) 8945 2486
Manunda Terrace Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/manunda	(08) 8927 7666	(08) 8945 2486
* Marrara Christian College Internet: www.mcc.nt.edu.au	(08) 8920 2000	(08) 8920 2001
Millner Preschool	(08) 8985 2061	(08) 8948 0751
Millner Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/millner	(08) 8948 1163	(08) 8948 0751
Moil Preschool	(08) 8927 1402	(08) 8945 2126
Moil Primary School Internet: www.moilps.nt.edu.au	(08) 8927 9711	(08) 8945 2126
Nakara Preschool	(08) 8927 3884	(08) 8927 7994
Nakara Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/nakara/	(08) 8927 9922	(08) 8927 7994
Nemarluk School Internet: www.nemarluk.nt.edu.au	(08) 8985 3100	(08) 8948 0016
Nightcliff Preschool	(08) 8948 8477	(08) 8948 8499

Nightcliff Middle School Internet: www.nightcliffhigh.com.au	(08) 8985 0850	(08) 8985 0860
Nightcliff Primary School Internet: www.ncliffps.nt.edu.au	(08) 8948 8488	(08) 8948 8499
NT School of Languages Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/ntsol	(08) 8985 0905	(08) 8948 0420
NT Music School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/ntmusic	(08) 8985 4732	(08) 8948 1778
NT Open Education Centre Internet: www.ntoec.nt.edu.au	(08) 8922 2292	(08) 8922 2258
O'Loughlin Catholic College Internet: www.oloughlin.nt.edu.au	(08) 8945 1277	(08) 8927 7140
Parap Preschool	(08) 8981 5146	(08) 8941 0090
Parap Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/parap	(08) 8982 2922	(08) 8941 0090
St Andrew's Lutheran School Internet: http://home.austarnet.com.au/sals	(08) 8945 1044	(08) 8927 5739
* St John's College Internet: www.stjohns.nt.catholic.edu.au	(08) 8982 2222	(08) 8982 2204
St Mary's Learning Centre	(08) 8981 9796	(08) 8981 5286
* St Mary's Primary School Internet: www.stmarysps.nt.catholic.edu.au	(08) 8981 9796	(08) 8981 5286
St Paul's Learning Centre	(08) 8985 1937	(08) 8948 0227
St Paul's Primary School Internet: www.stpaulsps.nt.catholic.edu.au	(08) 8985 1937	(08) 8948 0227
Sanderson Middle School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/sanderhs	(08) 8927 8899	(08) 8927 2127
Milkwood Steiner School Internet: www.milkwood.nt.edu.au	(08) 8947 0608	(08) 8947 1169
Stuart Park Preschool	(08) 8981 3374	
* Stuart Park Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/stuartpk	(08) 8981 6260	(08) 8941 1854
Wagaman Preschool	(08) 8922 6016	(08) 8922 6000
Wagaman Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/wagaman	(08) 8922 6011	(08) 8922 6000
Wanguri Preschool	(08) 8927 1293	
* Wanguri Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/wanguri	(08) 8927 1655	(08) 8945 2193
Wulagi Preschool	(08) 8999 8745	(08) 8999 8765
Wulagi Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/wulagi	(08) 8999 8799	(08) 8999 8765

Palmerston and Rural

	Telephone	Facsimile
Bakewell Preschool	(08) 8931 2133	
* Bakewell Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/bakewell	(08) 8931 0487	(08) 8931 0491
Bees Creek Preschool	(08) 8983 1756	(08) 8983 3120
Bees Creek Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/bcps/	(08) 8983 3222	(08) 8983 3120
Charles Darwin University – Palmerston Campus Internet: www.cdu.edu.au	(08) 8946 7800	(08) 8946 7833
Driver Preschool	(08) 8935 9090	(08) 8935 9035
* Driver Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/driverps	(08) 8935 9000	(08) 8935 9035
Durack Preschool	(08) 8932 8907	
* Durack Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/durack	(08) 8935 9259	(08) 8932 8894
Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School Internet: http://goodshepherd.nt.edu.au	(08) 8932 2003	(08) 8932 2848
Good Shepherd Lutheran Middle School Internet: http://goodshepherd.nt.edu.au	(08) 8983 0300	(08) 8983 0333
Gray Preschool	(08) 8932 1614	(08) 8932 1007
Gray Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/grayps	(08) 8932 1700	(08) 8932 1007
Girraween Preschool & Primary School	(08) 8983 3300	(08) 8983 4202
Howard Springs Preschool	(08) 8983 0018	(08) 8983 1834
Howard Springs Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/howardsp	(08) 8983 1244	(08) 8983 1834
Humpty Doo Preschool	(08) 8988 1290	(08) 8988 1845
Humpty Doo Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/humptydoo	(08) 8988 1255	(08) 8988 1845
Litchfield Christian School	(08) 8983 1268	(08) 8983 1297
Moulden Park Preschool	(08) 8932 1309	(08) 8932 3214
Moulden Park Primary School	(08) 8932 1133	(08) 8932 3214
* Palmerston Christian School	(08) 8932 3377	(08) 8932 3440
* Palmerston Senior College Internet: www.palmerstonsc.nt.edu.au	(08) 8935 0222	(08) 8932 2232
* Rosebery Primary School Internet:	(08) 8930 5100	(08) 8930 5199
* Rosebery Middle School (yrs 7-8 in 2011; yrs 7-9 from 2012) Internet:	(08) 8930 5200	(08) 8930 5399
Sacred Heart Early Learning Centre	(08) 8932 2888	(08) 8932 2388
* Sacred Heart Primary School Internet: www.shps.nt.catholic.edu.au	(08) 8932 2888	(08) 8932 2388
St Francis of Assisi Early Learning Centre	(08) 8988 1212	(08) 8988 1514

St Francis of Assisi	(08) 8988 1212	(08) 8988 1514
Taminmin High School – Middle Years Sub School – Senior Years Sub School Internet: www.taminmin.nt.edu.au	(08) 8988 0000	(08) 8988 2351
Woodroffe Preschool	(08) 8932 2338	(08) 8932 3851
Woodroffe Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/woodroffe	(08) 8932 3788	(08) 8932 2190

Katherine and Tindal

	Telephone	Facsimile
Casuarina Street Preschool	(08) 8971 2643	(08) 8971 3791
* Casuarina Street Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/csps	(08) 8971 2643	(08) 8971 3791
Charles Darwin University – Katherine Campus – NT Rural College Internet: www.cdu.edu.au	1800 061 963 (08) 8973 8461 (08) 8973 8311	(08) 8946 6642 (08) 8973 8460 (08) 8973 8300
Clyde Fenton Preschool	(08) 8972 1124	(08) 8972 3067
Clyde Fenton Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/clydefen	(08) 8972 1278	(08) 8972 3067
Katherine School of the Air Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/ksa	(08) 8972 1933	(08) 8972 3651
* Katherine High School – Middle Years Sub School – Senior Years Sub School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/kathhigh	(08) 8973 8200	(08) 8973 8288
Katherine South Preschool	(08) 8972 1496	(08) 8972 1857
* Katherine South Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/ksps	(08) 8972 1277	(08) 8972 1857
Kintore Street Special School	(08) 8971 0060	(08) 8971 0462
MacFarlane Preschool	(08) 8972 3069	
MacFarlane Primary School Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/riverscluster/macfarlane/default.htm	(08) 8972 3666	(08) 8972 3488
RAAF Base Tindal Preschool	(08) 8971 7127	(08) 8971 7127
St Joseph's Early Learning Centre	(08) 8972 3555	(08) 8972 3701
* St Joseph's College Internet: www.schools.nt.edu.au/stjoseph	(08) 8972 3555	(08) 8972 3701

Please note that not all Northern Territory schools have been listed. The list covers those where Defence Housing Association (DHA) offers the majority of Defence accommodation. The list excludes centres such as Nhulunbuy and Alice Springs where there are limited numbers of Defence personnel. For information about schools in smaller territory centres, please contact the NT REDLO.

Northern Territory Child Care Information

NT Child Care Facilities

There are many child care facilities and options available in Darwin and surrounding areas. The following link will assist you to locate a childcare centre in the location you desire:
www.careforkids.com.au/child-care-centre/darwin.

You can also visit DEEWR's My Child website: www.mychild.gov.au. This website assists in finding child care centres by suburb and postcode, and in some instances Includes information on fees and charges.

Information on the Defence Child Care Program is available on the DCO website at:
www.defence.gov.au/dco.

B4Kids operates a national booking / contact number (1300 265 600) which can provide information on vacancies and enrolment advice for Defence families. Further information on B4Kids can be found at:
www.b4kids.com.au

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Australian Government

Department of Defence