

# Education SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*...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

The Defence Community Organisation welcomes you to South Australia. Enjoy your stay, and take the opportunity to experience some of the major cultural and sporting events, festivals, and the family-focused, free activities available in the heart of Adelaide. For the more inquisitive and adventurous, there are many tourist areas to explore in the outer environs and further afield.

One of the distinctive features of living in the area is that Defence Housing is scattered throughout the Adelaide metropolitan area, and families posting to South Australia often reside in a number of localities that reflect inner city, coastal, outer suburban and 'hills' country lifestyles.

Education is a key issue for many Australian Defence Force personnel and their families. Whether it is the member's career or personal development, the ongoing needs of an ADF partner, or the education of school-aged children, education is important – and the related issues can be potentially complex.

The information in this booklet has been compiled by the Regional Education Liaison Officer (REDLO) to provide a brief overview of education in South Australia. The REDLO can help with information, advice, referral, specialised assistance on education matters and specific school listings, be they primary or secondary in either the State, Catholic or Independent systems.

### *Les Needham*

Regional Education Liaison Officer – South Australia  
Defence Community Organisation  
Tel: (08) 8305 6648  
Email: redlo.sa@defence.gov.au

# Contents

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>South Australian Public School Term Dates</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Defence Community Organisation Services</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Education and Children’s Services in South Australia</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Education Assistance Scheme (EAS)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Structure of Education in South Australia – The Overview</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Dependants with Special Needs (DWSN)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Primary School – Reception to Year 7</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Age of Entry for Schooling</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Secondary School – Years 8 to 12</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>On the Move Again</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Independent Schools</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Changing Schools</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Defence School Transition Aide Program</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>State Education Departments</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Further Education</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Student Information Portfolio</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Useful Contacts</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Resources</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Assistance for Children with Special Learning Needs</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Parent Involvement in School Community – How you can help?</b>	<b>10</b>		

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.

To ensure greater access for our clients and Command, we are located across several regions in Adelaide. The easiest way to contact us is via our Keswick Barracks Office.

DCO SA contact details are:

### **Keswick Barracks Office**

Building 60  
Keswick Barracks  
Anzac Hwy  
Keswick SA 5035

Tel: (08) 8305 6231

Fax: (08) 8305 6122

Email: [dco.southaustralia@defence.gov.au](mailto:dco.southaustralia@defence.gov.au)

Internet: [www.defence.gov.au/dco](http://www.defence.gov.au/dco)

DCO Outreach locations are Woodside Barracks and RAAF Base Edinburgh. For appointments please contact the Keswick Office.

Tel: (08) 8305 6231

In cases of after-hours emergencies, the DCO SA On-call Duty Officer can be contacted via the National Welfare Coordination Centre (NWCO).  
Tel: 1800 801 026

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 SA can be contacted on**

Tel: (08) 8305 6648

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

# 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](http://www.deewr.gov.au)

Information on the transfer note can be found at  
Internet: [www.mceecdya.edu.au](http://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.**

## South Australian Public School Term Dates

2011	2012	2013
Term 1 31 January to 15 April	Term 1 30 January to 5 April	Term 1 29 January to 12 April
Term 2 2 May to 8 July	Term 2 23 April to 29 June	Term 2 29 April to 5 July
Term 3 25 July to 30 September	Term 3 16 July to 21 September	Term 3 22 July to 27 September
Term 4 17 October to 16 December	Term 4 8 October to 14 December	Term 4 14 October to 13 December
<b>Term dates can be accessed at</b> Internet: <a href="http://www.school-holidays.com.au">www.school-holidays.com.au</a> <a href="http://www.decs.sa.gov.au">www.decs.sa.gov.au</a> <a href="http://www.australiatravelsearch.com.au">www.australiatravelsearch.com.au</a>		<b>Public holidays can be accessed at</b> Internet: <a href="http://www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au">www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au</a>

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

## Education and Children's Services in South Australia

Education services are available to students through the state system, managed by the Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS).

### DECS State Office

31 Flinders St, Adelaide SA 5000  
 Tel: (08) 8226 1000  
 1800 088 158 (freecall)  
 Email: [decscustomers@sa.gov.au](mailto:decscustomers@sa.gov.au)  
 Internet: [www.decs.sa.gov.au](http://www.decs.sa.gov.au)

DECS provides programs and services for children from birth to Year 12. Schools offer a comprehensive range of learning areas within the South Australian Curriculum, Standards and Accountability (SACSA) Framework. The curriculum covers children and students learning about themselves and their world as well as the skills of literacy, numeracy and information and communication technologies. In addition, both the independent school system and Catholic Education South Australia offer education programs in preschool, primary, secondary and special schools.

The SACSA Framework links with the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE), Vocational Education and Training (VET) and the International Baccalaureate.

Children from the age of six, and until they turn 16, must be enrolled in, and attend school. Students

who are 16-year-olds will be required to be in school, or an 'approved learning program', until they achieve a qualification or until they turn 17. This will require them to be undertaking education or training delivered through:

- a school
- a university or registered organisation
- an apprenticeship or traineeship
- a combination of these.

### General Enrolment and Enquiries

In the first instance, general enquiries about enrolment should be directed to the specific primary

or secondary school. If you wish to speak to the principal in person, it is best to telephone the school beforehand to make an appointment. Information and enrolment forms can also be obtained from the Regional Office to which each school is attached. A list of suburbs and their local school is available on Internet: [www.decs.sa.gov.au](http://www.decs.sa.gov.au)

All state preschool, primary and secondary school listings can be located on the DECS website, or look up 'Education' in the 'Business and Government' listings of the White Pages. Further information and listings can also be obtained from the REDLO. Regional Office contact numbers and addresses are listed below.

Region	Address	Telephone
<b>Metropolitan</b>	<b>Eastern Adelaide Regional Office</b> 5–11 Briar Road, Felixstowe SA 5070	(08) 8366 8800
	<b>Northern Adelaide Regional Office</b> 1st Floor, Elizabeth House Elizabeth Way, Elizabeth SA 5112	(08) 8256 8111
	<b>Southern Adelaide Regional Office</b> 5th Floor, Noarlunga House Noarlunga Centre SA 5168	(08) 8207 3700
	<b>Western Adelaide Regional Office</b> Beatty Street, Flinders Park SA 5025	(08) 8416 7333
<b>Greater Adelaide</b>	<b>Adelaide Hills Regional Office</b> 6 Dutton Road, Mount Barker SA 5251	(08) 8391 4705
	<b>Barossa Regional Office</b> 1st Floor, Elizabeth House Elizabeth Way, Elizabeth SA 5112	(08) 8256 8111
	<b>Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Regional Office</b> 5th Floor, Noarlunga House Noarlunga Centre SA 5168	(08) 8207 3762
<b>Country Eyre and West</b>	<b>Eyre and Western Regional Office</b> 34 Oxford Terrace, Port Lincoln SA 5606	(08) 8641 6877
	<b>Far North and Aboriginal Lands Regional Office</b> 9-39 Carlton Parade, Port Augusta SA 5700	(08) 8641 6877
	<b>Limestone Coast Regional Office</b> 64 Commercial Street West PO Box 397, Mount Gambier SA 5290	Mount Gambier (08) 8724 5300  Naracoorte (08) 8762 3099
	<b>Murray and Mallee Regional Office</b> 20 Beatty Terrace, Murray Bridge SA 5253 Regional Admin Office	Murray Bridge (08) 8532 0700  Berri (08) 8595 2323
	<b>Yorke and Mid North Regional Office</b> 59 Mary Elie Street, Port Pirie SA 5540	Port Pirie (08) 8632 0600

## Early Childhood Services

A range of services are available to meet your family's needs. These include:

- childcare services
- preschools (also called kindergartens, child parent centres, children's services centres)
- play centres
- children's centres (for early childhood development and parenting).

### Childcare Centres

Childcare centres provide care for babies, toddlers and children less than six years of age. Centres use the National Early Years Learning Framework to extend and enrich children's learning. It has a specific emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language and social and emotional development. Care may be provided for part of the day or for full days. Care for primary school children before and after school, and during school holidays, may also be available. Most centres are open for a minimum of eight hours a day, 48 weeks a year. Permanent or regular bookings may be required.

All centres are required to be licensed and meet nationally-agreed standards relating to provision of facilities and quality of service offered. Fees vary from centre to centre. The cost of care is determined by the fee set by the centre, and eligibility for the Child Care Benefit is based on the income of the family.

### Babysitting Agencies

Babysitting agencies introduce or employ individuals who will care for children in the child's own home. The agency can be an individual or registered business. The Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) licenses babysitting agencies. Search the Yellow Pages for 'Baby Sitters'.

### Occasional Care

Occasional care is short-term child care for babies, toddlers and children under school-age. Care is available for up to one session per week, depending on availability. These sessions are usually offered in preschools and generally operate at the same time as the preschool session. A small fee is charged for each session.

### Family Day Care

Customer Support Centre  
Tel: (08) 8366 8720  
Country Callers: 1300 551 890

### National Child Care Hotline

Tel: 1800 670 305  
Provides information and contact details for child care across Australia.

## Home and Community Care

The Home and Community Care (HACC) program provides respite care for families with children with moderate to severe disabilities. Respite care is available for up to 250 hours per child, per year. Parents may choose to use care in regular small blocks of time or as a larger block of time e.g. over 4-5 days.

This care may be provided in either the family's home or the care provider's home. Places are subject to the availability of a caregiver who is able to meet the child's specific needs.

The program is administered in conjunction with the Family Day Care program in South Australia and fees are based on a sliding scale.

To access the Respite Care programs contact a Customer Support Officer on:

Tel: Adelaide Metro (08) 8366 8720  
Country Callers 1300 551 890

Internet: [www.decs.sa.gov.au/familydaycare/pages/additionalneeds](http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/familydaycare/pages/additionalneeds)

## Out of School Hours Care

Out of school hours care (OSHC) and vacation care provide supervised recreational activities and care for primary school children. This may be before and/or after school, during holidays or on student-free days.

OSHC services offer a range of age-appropriate activities which encourage children to interact with friends, learn life skills, problem-solve, practise social skills, and be challenged by new experiences in a safe and relaxed environment.

Most services are associated with a particular school, but others may be located in community facilities or childcare centres. These services may be community-based or privately operated. The cost of care varies depending on the fee set by the service and the income of the family.

Out of School Hours Care Unit  
Tel: (08) 8226 6427

## Financial Assistance for Child Care

If your child attends an accredited childcare centre, family day care scheme or out of school hours care service, the Commonwealth Government may pay part of your childcare fees, under the Child Care Benefit scheme.

The amount you are eligible to receive is determined by your family's assessed income, the number of children in your family, and the number using child care. This payment is made directly to the childcare service that your child attends, and you then pay the difference between the fee charges and the subsidy.

The Family Assistance Office administers the Child Care Benefit and can be contacted at your nearest Medicare or Centrelink office.

## Playgroup

Playgroups are groups of parents, carers and their children who meet together to provide opportunities for their children (from birth to school-age) to learn through play, and to interact with other children and adults. Playgroups also provide an opportunity for parents and carers to share ideas and information in a supportive environment.

Playgroups meet in preschools, schools, neighbourhood houses and local halls. They are low cost and usually meet for about two hours on the same day each week. Playgroups are community-based and members are involved in the planning, organisation and running of their group. Most playgroups are members of the Playgroup Association of South Australia. Attending your local playgroup can be a great way to meet new friends and to establish support networks for you and your children when you are newly arrived in an area.

For further information contact:

### **Preschools/Centre-based Care Unit**

Tel: (08) 8226 0187

### **The Playgroup Association of South Australia**

Tel: (08) 8344 2722

Country callers: 1800 171 882 (freecall)

Internet: [www.playgroupaustralia.com.au/sa/go/join-or-start-a-playgroup](http://www.playgroupaustralia.com.au/sa/go/join-or-start-a-playgroup)

## Preschool and Play Centres

Preschool education is offered by DECS. A preschool may also be known as a kindergarten, child parent centre (CPC) or children's services centre (CSC).

Most children start preschool at the age of four years and attend for the 12 months prior to commencing school.

Preschools may offer a range of services in addition to preschool sessions. These services may include pre-entry sessions, playgroups and occasional care.

Preschool is provided in sessions that last up to approximately three hours. Children can attend up to four sessions a week. Preschool fees are set by the centre's governing council and can vary. They are usually paid at the beginning of each term.

Parents play a crucial role in the management of their local preschool. They may contribute to the program or policies, assist in making decisions and participate in fundraising activities.

Internet: [www.ourchildren.sa.gov.au/index.htm](http://www.ourchildren.sa.gov.au/index.htm)

## Children's Centres for Early Childhood Development and Parenting

Children's Centres bring together care, education, health, community development activities and family services for families and their young children from birth to eight years of age.

Children's Centres help parents and children get the support they need, when they need it, within their own community.

Each Children's Centre is tailored to meet the needs of the local community.

There are wide ranging national reforms in early childhood education and care taking place across Australia over 2010 – 2020.

### **For further information please contact:**

Department of Education & Children's Services  
Early Childhood Services

Education Centre, 31 Flinders Street

Adelaide SA 5000

Phone: (08) 8226 1755

Email: [childrenscentres@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:childrenscentres@saugov.sa.gov.au)

## Primary and Secondary Schooling

### **South Australian Curriculum, Standards and Accountability (SACSA) Framework**

Curriculum in South Australian government schools and children's services has been developed within the South Australian Curriculum, Standards and Accountability (SACSA) Framework. The Framework includes birth to Year 12, and is outcomes-based. It was developed through extensive consultation processes involving educators, students, parents, policy-makers and tertiary education personnel.

The curriculum is divided into Early Years (birth to Year 2), Primary Years (Years 3, 4 and 5), Middle Years (Years 6, 7, 8 and 9) and Senior Years (Years 10, 11 and 12).

---

Within South Australia, schools develop programs based on the eight Key Learning Areas that form the SACSA Framework. The learning areas are: the arts, design and technology, English, health and physical education, languages, mathematics, science, and society and environment.

### **School Terms**

The school year usually begins in late January and is divided into four terms of approximately 10 weeks. There is a two-week break in between terms. Term dates for government schools are different from term dates for independent schools. It is important to contact independent schools to confirm their term dates.

### **School Fees**

Each school in consultation with their school council or board can continue to set, collect and recover a materials and services charge. This fee assists in providing books, materials and services to support the educational program for students. Additional charges may apply during the year for excursions, camps, extra stationery, and some special projects within the school. Obtaining a confirmation of fee schedules is advised, as fees vary considerably from school to school and from the primary to secondary sector. If you have difficulty in meeting school costs, you can contact the principal or enrolling officer to arrange payment by instalments or by the term. Some schools offer a discount for up-front cash payment before the school year begins.

### **School Uniforms**

Uniforms are not compulsory in South Australian government schools. However, most primary and secondary school governing councils or boards adopt a dress code which all students are expected to follow. This involves the wearing of school uniform or clothing in the school's colours. Primary students may also be expected to wear hats during Terms 1 and 4. Uniforms are compulsory in non-government schools. Please make direct contact with schools to gather information on the specific dress code or uniform requirement at their site.

### **School Card**

The School Card provides financial assistance towards the educational expenses incurred by families who meet the eligibility criteria, those who have: a child or children from four years of age attending full-time school; independent full-time students undertaking six subjects in Years 10 or 11, or five subjects in Year 12; and adult re-entry students. Your gross income must be within the School Card income limits for the number of dependent children.

Eligibility for the School Card is generally dependent on the parent, guardian or adult student being able to produce the enrolling school with the relevant documentation attesting to their income level.

Applicants wishing to be considered for School Card assistance must apply each year. 2009/2010 School Card Scheme procedures and application forms for government and non-government schools can be accessed on the DECS website.

Internet: [www.decs.sa.gov.au/goldbook/pages/school\\_card/](http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/goldbook/pages/school_card/)

Further information:

School Card  
DECS School Card Section  
GPO Box 1152  
Adelaide SA 5001

Tel: 1800 672 758 (freecall)

If you are experiencing any issues with School card, please contact Centrelink.

# Structure of Education in South Australia

## – The Overview

The education system in South Australia is largely divided into preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary. Children have between 13 and 14 years of schooling (including preschool).

NON-COMPULSORY EDUCATION Pre-primary	
<b>Pre-entry</b>	Children must be three years and nine months, and starting preschool in the following term – one half-day session a week.  Pre-entry is only available at a limited number of preschools.
<b>Preschool</b>	Children must be four years of age to be eligible for four half-day sessions in the year before children start formal, full-time schooling. May be offered two full days depending on centre hours, availability of places and the maturity of the child. Sessions are approximately three hours duration.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION (For all six- to over-16-year-olds) Formal Schooling	
<b>Primary School</b>	<b>Reception and Years 1–7</b> (over eight and a half years) Children must be five years of age – eligible to start school at the beginning of the next term following their fifth birthday. Children must complete between eleven and fourteen terms in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
<b>Secondary School</b>	<b>Years 8–12</b> (five years) A limited number of schools offer Year 13.
<b>Combined Primary and Secondary</b>	State schools that offer a range of programs from Reception or Birth to Year 12 are usually divided into three sub-schools comprising Junior, Middle and Senior School.

## Primary School – Reception to Year 7

When children turn five years old they are eligible to attend school, but it is not compulsory for them to start until they are six years old. If there is a place available, the unique system of ‘rolling intake’ enables children to start at the beginning of the term immediately after they turn five, or in the school’s next intake following the child’s fifth birthday.

**Reception is the name given to the first year of schooling.** Depending on when they start, children generally spend between 11 and 14 terms in junior primary school. Junior primary school covers the years from and including Reception to Year 2.

A Parenting SA pamphlet called Starting School has some helpful suggestions for parents. You can download a copy from the Parenting SA website. Internet: [www.parenting.sa.gov.au](http://www.parenting.sa.gov.au)

Or call Parenting SA for a copy  
Tel: (08) 8303 1660

### Zoning

At present, the majority of primary schools are NOT zoned. A student’s zoned school is determined according to their permanent and primary place of residence. Please contact your local school to see if it has implemented zoning rights. You can apply for entry to a primary school even if it is not your zoned school. Your application will be placed on a waiting list according to the number of points it receives after being assessed against the department’s Criteria for Allocation of Points, which includes:

- distance from your primary place of residence to the school
- curriculum selections that cannot be met at your zoned school
- social and family links
- transportation/location convenience
- disability/medical reasons.

### Primary School Listings

The REDLO SA can provide a list of government and non-government schools near your residence if they have not already been forwarded to you. School listings can also be accessed at the DECS website. Internet: [www.decs.sa.gov.au](http://www.decs.sa.gov.au)

## Secondary School – Years 8 to 12

Secondary enrolment packages are available at all primary and secondary schools. They can also be forwarded by telephoning the DECS central office.

Tel: (08) 8226 1000  
Tel: 1800 088 158 (freecall)

### Zoning and Out of District Enrolments

Most government secondary schools in South Australia are co-educational and offer a Year 8–12 curriculum; however, a small number of schools also offer Year 13.

All state secondary schools in metropolitan Adelaide are zoned. This means that a student’s zoned school is determined according to their permanent and primary place of residence.

A place is reserved for each child in their zoned secondary school (except Adelaide High School and Urrbrae Agricultural High School who have separate Enrolment Policies). While students are zoned to a particular secondary school, they are free to apply for enrolment at any other out-of-zone secondary school in the state. Once you have confirmed the regional boundaries that apply to each school and decided which secondary school you wish your child to attend, you will need to complete an Application for Enrolment (Form ED176), available from any local school or regional office. Please note that some boundaries (roads) have had to be split into odd and even numbers and this may affect your region allocation. Your application will be placed on a waiting list according to the number of points it receives after being assessed against the department’s Criteria for Allocation of Points, which includes:

- distance from your primary place of residence to the school
- curriculum selections that cannot be met at your zoned school
- social and family links
- transportation/location convenience
- disability/medical reasons.

If your child has applied to attend a school with a special interest course, or a non-government school, completion of the Application for Enrolment will ensure that there is a place for your child in the local secondary school if your application for the preferred school placement is unsuccessful. Parents who wish to appeal against an unsuccessful placement should seek advice from the Regional Office with regard to the process and further information to be provided.

### Waiting Lists

For secondary schools that exceed their ceiling, ranked waiting lists will be created. These lists will only be activated after the appeals process has been completed at the beginning of Term 4. Secondary schools will manage the list, with places offered to students in order of their place on the list. Late applications from 'out of district' students are added to the bottom of the list in the order that they are received.

### The South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE)

The SACE Board of South Australia administers the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

SACE has been introduced to all government, Catholic and Independent schools with senior secondary students in Years 10, 11 and 12. The SACE is an internationally recognised qualification. It is the basic requirement for entry to higher education, and gaining a Tertiary Entrance Ranking (TER) is derived from the successful completion of SACE studies. Within the SACE, students can undertake a wide range of subjects and special interest programs designed to suit their academic and vocational pathways.

Credit can be gained for academic studies, vocational training, skilled work and community learning.

### Trade Schools for the Future Program

This program enables government high school students to combine their SACE studies with Vocational Education Training (VET) in the form of a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.

Specialist Apprenticeship Brokers are on-site at schools and who will link students and employers in school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

Information can be obtained from any local secondary school or from Trade Schools for the Future on 8226 0480.

### Selective Entry Special Interest Schools

South Australian government schools offer a variety of programs to students with a special interest. The offerings differ between schools and include music, sports, mathematics, science, multimedia, performing arts and information technology. Some schools also offer selective entry programs that require students to submit additional information for consideration prior to acceptance, and may also involve an individual interview and presentation of work or portfolios.

At present, the special interest schools are:

- Adelaide High School (language)
- Brighton Secondary School (music)
- Charles Campbell Secondary School (performing arts - dance and drama)
- Fremont Elizabeth City High School (music)
- Golden Grove High School (performing arts, dance)
- Marryatville High School (music)
- Urrbrae Agriculture High School (agriculture)
- Woodville High School (music).

A selection process applies to all students who may wish to enrol in a special interest course. If you wish to know more about a special program, contact the school directly or access their website.

Internet: [www.decs.sa.gov.au](http://www.decs.sa.gov.au)

### Special Sport and Physical Education Programs

Special sports programs are conducted in secondary schools in conjunction with the respective state sporting associations. Each program provides a balance between academic and sporting commitments, and caters for selected students who will be provided with an intensive high-level program in the sport.

- Adelaide High School (cricket and rowing)  
Tel: 08 8231 9373
- Blackwood High School (netball)  
Tel: 08 8278 0900
- Brighton Secondary School (volleyball)  
Tel: 08 8375 8200
- Grant High School (baseball)  
Tel: 08 8726 3100
- Heathfield High School (volleyball)  
Tel: 08 8139 9300
- Henley High School (general sport)  
Tel: 08 8355 7000
- Marryatville High School (tennis)  
Tel: 08 8304 8420

- Mount Gambier High School (cricket, football and netball)  
Tel: 08 8725 6244
- Pasadena High School (basketball)  
Tel: 08 8276 8822
- Roma Mitchell Secondary College (cycling, hockey and soccer)  
Tel: 08 8161 4600
- Seaton High School (baseball)  
Tel: 08 8445 2944
- Seaview High School (tennis)  
Tel: 08 8296 8833
- Underdale High School (soccer)  
Tel: 08 8301 8000
- Wirreanda High School (general sport)  
Tel: 08 8382 9555

Wirreanda High School also coordinates the Southern Vales Physical Education and Sport Program involving Christies Beach High School (aquatics) and Reynella East High School (basketball and hockey).

### Ignite Programs for Gifted Children

The Ignite Program provides accelerated learning for gifted children. A class of students for each designated school will be selected to begin an accelerated learning program at Year 8. The schools offering programs for gifted students are:

Aberfoyle Park High School  
Tel: (08) 8263 6244

Glenunga International School  
Tel: (08) 8379 5629

The Heights School  
Tel: (08) 8270 4455

Parents can obtain an Expression of Interest to enrol their child in any of these schools from their primary school, the secondary school offering the Ignite Program, or on the program's website.

[www.igniteprogram.com.au](http://www.igniteprogram.com.au)

Applicants for the Ignite Program must also complete an Application for Enrolment (Form ED176).

#### Policy Officer

#### Equity and Gifted Learners

5th Floor  
31 Flinders St  
Adelaide SA 5001

Applicants for the Ignite Program must also complete an Application for Enrolment (Form ED176).

### Australian Science and Mathematics School

The Australian Science and Mathematics School (ASMS) enrol students in Years 10, 11 and 12 from across the country. The ASMS provides a comprehensive curriculum with a special focus on science and mathematics. If you wish to register an Expression of Interest or obtain further ASMS program and enrolment information, please contact the school.

Tel: (08) 8201 5686

Internet: [www.asms.sa.edu.au](http://www.asms.sa.edu.au)

### International Course

Glenunga International High School and Blackwood High School offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) two-year diploma program for Year 11 and 12 students. This is a challenging alternative to the SACE, qualifying the student for entry into major universities around the world. For further information please contact:

Glenunga International High School  
Tel: 08 8379 5629

Blackwood High School  
Tel: 08 8278 0900

### Enterprise and Vocational Education

Enterprise and Vocational Education will focus on developing programs that respond to the needs of the regional workforce. Vocational Education and Training (VET) in schools is nationally recognised training that is offered to students as part of the normal curriculum, and provides the students the opportunity to study a broad range of subjects. VET will be further developed and expanded, along with the opening-up of part-time New Apprenticeships. VET programs are flexible and can range from a couple of hours a week to part-time, school-based apprenticeships where students become trainees and employees. These programs are responsive to the needs of industry and students, and always include structured workplace training. Pathways for entry to university, further training and employment are provided in partnership with business, industry, TAFE and community organisations.

South Australia has two vocational colleges: Windsor Gardens Vocational College, located in the northern suburbs, and the Southern Vocational College, at Christies Beach High School in the south.

Students engaged in VET programs have the opportunity to complete their secondary education with all of the following:

- A senior secondary certificate qualification
- A university entrance score or equivalent
- Practical work skills and a VET qualification up to Certificate III.

### Single-sex Schools

There are two single-sex schools for girls in the Metropolitan area: Roma Mitchell Secondary College and Mitcham Girls High School. They offer subjects, courses and methods of learning designed to cater particularly for the development and interest of girls. These schools do not have district boundaries.

### Adult Re-entry Schools

Charles Campbell Secondary School  
Tel: (08) 8337 6345

Christies Beach High School  
and Southern Vocational College  
Tel: (08) 8329 9777

Edward John Eyre High School  
Tel: (08) 8645 7677

Hamilton Secondary College Senior Campus  
Tel: (08) 8275 8325

Le Fevre High School  
Tel: (08) 8449 7004

Marden Senior College  
Tel: (08) 8366 2800 (enrolments)  
Tel: (08) 8366 2888 (administration)

Para West Adult Campus  
Tel: (08) 8254 6300

Thebarton Senior College  
Tel: (08) 8234 2359 (enrolments)  
Tel: (08) 8352 5811 (administration)

Open Access College  
Tel: (08) 8309 3500

Email: [info@oac.sa.edu.au](mailto:info@oac.sa.edu.au)  
Internet: [www.oac.schools.sa.edu.au](http://www.oac.schools.sa.edu.au)

### Secondary School Listings

The REDLO can provide a list of government and non-government schools.

## Independent Schools

Both the independent school system and Catholic Education South Australia offer education programs in preschool, primary, secondary and special schools.

Contacts:

### Catholic Education South Australia

Tel: (08) 8301 6611  
Internet: [www.cesa.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au)

### Association of Independent Schools of South Australia

Tel: (08) 8373 0755  
Internet: [www.ais.sa.edu.au](http://www.ais.sa.edu.au)

### Non-government School Listings

The REDLO can provide a list of all non-government schools near your residence.

## Defence School Transition Aide Program

The Defence School Transition Aide (DSTA) program was established to provide 'hands on' support within primary schools to ADF members and their families during their transition into and out of the local school.

The DSTA program has two elements:

- Defence School Transition Aide (DSTA) – Primary
  - Defence Transition Mentor (DTM) – Secondary
- DSTAs and DTMs are located in a limited number of schools throughout Australia, and are working in the following schools in South Australia.

### Defence School Transition Aides – Primary

Golden Grove Primary School  
Tel: (08) 8289 3137

Greenwith Primary School  
Tel: (08) 8289 8100

Co-located with and including students/families from:  
Our Lady of Hope Catholic School

Hewett Primary School  
Tel: (08) 8522 1486

Mawson Lakes School  
Tel: (08) 8260 1681

Playford Primary School  
Tel: (08) 8284 3065

Co-located with and including students/families from:  
Catherine McAuley School

St Brigid's Catholic School  
Tel: (08) 8522 2099

Trinity College – North/South Schools  
Tel: (08) 8522 0632

### Defence Transition Mentor – Secondary

Golden Grove High School  
Tel: (08) 8282 6400

Co-located with and including students/families from:  
Pedare Christian College  
Gleeson College

## Further Education

Universities, TAFE colleges, private training providers, the Worker's Education Association, and Adult Community Education (ACE) provide a range of adult learning opportunities. Alternatively, tertiary courses may be studied through various flexible delivery modes, or through distance education. Leisure and self-interest courses are usually offered through local community centres and at some of the larger TAFE campuses.

South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC)

- SATAC processes applications for many of the courses offered by TAFE and the universities in South Australia.
- SATAC assesses the academic and non-academic qualifications presented by applicants, and ranks eligible applicants in merit order for each course according to the rules and guidelines provided by the institution offering the course.
- SATAC generates offers based on the number of applicants required to fill each course, as set by the institutions.
- SATAC acts as a 'one-stop shop' for enquiries about the outcomes of applications.
- SATAC does not decide on the relative merits of different qualifications, exactly how they are assessed, or how eligible applicants are ranked. These selection issues are the responsibility of the institution offering each course.

### SATAC

Tel: (08) 8224 4000

Tel: 1300 138 440 (country and interstate)

Fax: (08) 8224 4091

Internet: [www.satac.edu.au](http://www.satac.edu.au)

## Useful Contacts

### **Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS)**

Tel: (08) 8226 1000

Internet: [www.decs.sa.gov.au](http://www.decs.sa.gov.au)

### **Catholic Education South Australia**

Tel: (08) 8301 6600

Internet: [www.cesa.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au)

### **Childcare Hotline (national)**

Tel: 1800 670 305

### **Association of Independent Schools of South Australia**

Tel: (08) 8373 0755

Internet: [www.ais.sa.edu.au](http://www.ais.sa.edu.au)

### **Adult Learning Australia Inc.**

Tel: (08) 8226 3428

Internet: <http://alw.ala.asn.au>

### **English Language Service (ELS)**

Tel: (08) 8226 6555

Internet: [www.els.sa.edu.au](http://www.els.sa.edu.au)

### **Marden Senior College**

Tel: (08) 8366 2800

Internet: [www.mardensc.sa.edu.au](http://www.mardensc.sa.edu.au)

### **SACE Board of South Australia**

Internet: [www.saceboard.sa.edu.au](http://www.saceboard.sa.edu.au)

### **TAFE SA**

Tel: 1800 882 661

Internet: [www.tafe.sa.edu.au](http://www.tafe.sa.edu.au)

### **Flinders University**

Tel: (08) 8201 3074

Internet: [www.flinders.edu.au](http://www.flinders.edu.au)

### **The University of Adelaide**

Tel: (08) 8303 5208

Internet: [www.adelaide.edu.au](http://www.adelaide.edu.au)

### **University of South Australia**

Tel: (08) 8302 2376

Internet: [www.unisa.edu.au](http://www.unisa.edu.au)

### **The Worker's Education Association of South Australia (WEA)**

Tel: (08) 8223 1979

Internet: [www.wea-sa.com.au](http://www.wea-sa.com.au)

## Assistance for Children with Special Learning Needs

A range of educational facilities, including the local school, special schools, support centres and units may be available to students with a disability. The Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) Policy Statement, *Students with Disabilities* booklet, No. 7, has information regarding enrolment procedures, Negotiated Education Plans (NEPs) etc., and is available from DECS.

### **DECS**

31 Flinders St

Adelaide SA 5000

Tel: (08) 8226 1000

Tel: 1800 088 158 (freecall, for country and interstate callers)

### **Enrolment**

The neighbourhood preschool or school is the first point of contact for the initial enrolment of all children. Following enrolment, negotiations can begin to determine curriculum modification and additional support services if required, and discussion of education options.

### **Parents/caregivers**

On enrolment, if you are aware that your child has already been assessed with a disability and/or learning difficulty, you should discuss this with the principal/director. If you are not sure if your child has a disability and/or learning difficulty, you can discuss with the director/principal your concerns and whether some additional support might be required. If necessary, the director/principal can help in the completion of a referral to departmental support services so that your child's learning needs can be explored further.

If you are moving from interstate and your child has a disability or a special learning need, and you are unsure of your housing allocation, then you will have to make contact with your local DECS Regional Office. The placement of students with disabilities is managed by the regional Support and Disability Manager. In order to begin the assessment and placement process you will need to provide copies of

all recent and relevant school and specialist reports, assessments and recommendations. All students will need to complete an Application for Enrolment (Form ED176), including those who have a confirmed place in a special class or school.

All Regional Offices offer a range of services and support, including social work, student attendance and retention services, inter-agency behaviour management, hearing impairment support, speech pathology, disability and developmental delay support, and early childhood psychology.

The REDLO can provide further information regarding referrals to Regional Offices.



## Notes

---

Notes



**Australian Government**  

---

**Department of Defence**