

Foreword

On behalf of the Defence Community Organisation (DCO) staff 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 transfer 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 in having 13 Defence School Transition Aides (DSTAs) in primary schools and four Defence Transition Mentors (DTMs) in secondary schools where there is a significant number of enrolments from Australian Defence Force families.

The purpose of the DSTA/DTM is to facilitate the best possible educational outcome for children of Defence members through on-site, direct and flexible assistance to children. Feedback from school Principals regularly praises the support provided by the DSTA/DTM in their schools, confirming that the DSTA/DTM initiative has been invaluable and has made a world of difference to the positive integration of Defence children into the school community.

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 Darwin DCO office has social workers, two Family Liaison Officers, a Regional Education Liaison Officer and a Military Support Officer from each of the three Services.

The Tindal DCO office has social workers and a Family Liaison Officer. The Darwin Regional Education Liaison Officer and RAAF Military Support Officer visit RAAF Tindal regularly.

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 (REDLO) NT
Defence Community Organisation, Darwin
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.

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Defence Community Organisation Services

The Defence Community Organisation (DCO) provides free and confidential services to the Australian Defence Force, its members (including single members) and their families through a broad range of specialised services including information and support programs.

DCO also supports 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 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 Parade
Tindal NT 0853

Tel: (08) 8973 7134
Email: dco.tindal@defence.gov.au

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

Military Support Officers (MSOs) are uniformed members from the three Services who offer support, advice, assistance to individual clients 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, referral and specialised assistance on education matters to Service members and their families, the ADF and education systems on education matters. REDLOs provide advice about the impacts of posting mobility on education. They can assist with the transition between the various state and territory primary, secondary and tertiary education systems.

REDLO DCO-NT can be contacted on:
Tel: (08) 8935 7900
Email: redlo.nt@defence.gov.au

Education Assistance Scheme

Defence recognises that the mobile lifestyle can create particular challenges for school-aged children. One purpose of the Education Assistance Scheme (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.

The basic elements of the EAS are as follows:

- tuition must be provided by a qualified person or a properly 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
- 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 scheme include:

- boarding assistance for students in Years 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 policy
- compensation to a member whose child forfeits a scholarship or bursary because of the member posting to another locality.

The EAS 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 PACMAN, Vol. 2 Ch. 8 Part 4. A copy is available online at <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/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.

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; for example, 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, storytime, 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 next page)
- 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
- at the appointment 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, suspension and exclusion 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 220 Northbourne Ave BRADDON ACT 2612	Tel: (02) 6207 5111 Fax: (02) 6205 9333	www.decs.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 of Employment, Education and Training GPO Box 4821 DARWIN NT 0801	Tel: (08) 8999 5659 Fax: (08) 8901 1326	www.deet.nt.gov.au
Queensland (QLD) Department of Education, Training and the Arts 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 2 Treasury Place MELBOURNE VIC 3000	Tel: (03) 9637 2000	www.education.vic.gov.au
Western Australia (WA) Department of Education and Training 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
- provide details about the student to assist the new school in placing the student in an appropriate year level
- encourage your child to feel he/she is making a contribution to his/her schooling
- help parents to relate more confidently to new schools.

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, for example canteen duty, coaching or umpiring a sporting team, Rock and Roll Eisteddfod etc.

Co-curricular activities

- Sports, hobbies, club membership
- Art, music, languages, 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.dest.gov.au/changingschools
Internet: www.deewr.gov.au
Email: publications@dest.gov.au

Information on the transfer note can be found at
Internet: www.mceetya.edu.au/transfernote

Northern Territory Public School Term Dates

2008	2009	2010
<p>Term 1</p> <p>Tuesday 29 January – Friday 4 April</p> <p>Students resume Wednesday 30 January</p> <p>Easter Break Friday 21 March – Monday 24 March</p> <p>Mid-Semester Break Monday 7 April – Friday 11 April</p>	<p>Term 1</p> <p>Tuesday 27 January – Friday 3 April</p> <p>Students resume Wednesday 28 January</p> <p>Mid-Semester Break Monday 6 April – Monday 13 April</p> <p>Easter Break Friday 10 April – Monday 13 April</p>	<p>Term 1</p> <p>Monday 25 January – Thursday 1 April</p> <p>Students resume Wednesday 27 January</p> <p>Easter Break Friday 2 April – Monday 5 April</p> <p>Mid-Semester Break Monday 5 April – Friday 9 April</p>
<p>Term 2</p> <p>Monday 14 April – Friday 20 June</p> <p>Semester Break Monday 23 June – Friday 18 July</p>	<p>Term 2</p> <p>Tuesday 14 April – Friday 19 June</p> <p>Semester Break Monday 22 June – Friday 17 July</p>	<p>Term 2</p> <p>Monday 12 April – Friday 18 June</p> <p>Semester Break Monday 21 June – Friday 16 July</p>
<p>Term 3</p> <p>Monday 21 July – Friday 26 September</p> <p>Students resume Tuesday 22 July</p> <p>Mid-Semester Break Monday 29 September – Friday 3 October</p>	<p>Term 3</p> <p>Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September</p> <p>Students resume Tuesday 21 July</p> <p>Mid-Semester Break Monday 28 September – Friday 2 October</p>	<p>Term 3</p> <p>Monday 19 July – Friday 24 September</p> <p>Students resume Tuesday 20 July</p> <p>Mid-Semester Break Monday 27 September – Friday 1 October</p>
<p>Term 4</p> <p>Monday 6 October – Friday 12 December</p>	<p>Term 4</p> <p>Monday 5 October – Friday 11 December</p>	<p>Term 4</p> <p>Monday 4 October – Friday 10 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 equipped. Education in the Territory is a partnership between students, teachers, the Northern Territory Department of Employment, Education and Training, interested community members, business, parents and guardians.

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

NT Education System Contacts:

NT Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET)
GPO Box 385, Darwin NT 0800
Tel: (08) 8999 5511
Fax: (08) 8901 1362
Internet: www.deet.nt.gov.au

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

Catholic Education Office
PO Box 219, Berrimah NT 0828
Tel: (08) 8984 1400
Email: Admin@ceo.nt.catholic.edu.au
Internet: www.ceo.nt.catholic.edu.au

NT Christian Schools Association
PO Box 228, Sanderson NT 0801
Tel: (08) 8945 4355
Fax: (08) 8945 3518
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 15 years of age in the Northern Territory. 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 send their children to the school of their choice depending upon the enrolment management policy of some schools. Some schools may limit the enrolment of children to those who reside within a certain geographical area to avoid overcrowding.

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 2/3. 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 the child turns five before 30 June. 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. 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 the distance is in excess of a five-kilometre 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 Multilevel Assessment Program (MAP) in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Data from this program provides information on one aspect of student achievement and is 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

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 Josephs College
Tel: (08) 8972 3555

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.

Darwin High School
Tel: (08) 8999 1222

Katherine High School
Tel: (08) 8973 8200

Palmerston High School
Tel: (08) 8935 0222

St John's College
Tel: (08) 8982 2222

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, Palmerston Christian School in Palmerston and The Essington School in Darwin 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 school by contacting the school directly. Most senior secondary schools 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 schools 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.

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.

Senior secondary students in the Territory undertake subjects developed and accredited by the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia (SSABSA). The NTCE is recognised as an entry qualification by Australian universities and colleges, including Charles Darwin University.

The requirements for the NTCE are currently being reviewed. However, any changes to the NTCE will not happen before 2009, and any changes will be phased in over time. Students currently undertaking the NTCE or who are due to commence Year 11 in 2008 or 2009 will not be affected by these changes.

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, perhaps not offered at their own high school, and to adults wanting to complete their high school education.

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

Enquiries:

Tel: (08) 8920 1200

Internet: www.csc.nt.edu.au

Email: night.classes@csc.nt.edu.au

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 and 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

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, whilst 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 trees, paving, weeding or small maintenance jobs around that favourite playground.

School Board membership ensures you as parents have a direct say in the form of education provided at the school. Each school is administered by a School Board composed of elected parents, teachers, a departmental nominee, the principal and often student representatives. Meetings are usually held after working hours, so can be a good way for the working parent to still be involved.

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.



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 disabilities or a specific learning disability. (www.deet.nt.gov.au/education/students_with_special_needs/)

Special education students have the right to access an inclusive curriculum that is broad, balanced and relevant and meets individual needs. All schools in the Northern Territory make this provision and parents or care givers are able to select either a mainstream school or special placement for their child. Advice or assistance with this selection is available through the Schools Division on (08) 8999 5629 or Student Services Branch on (08) 8999 8750.

Student Services Branch of the Department of Employment, Education and Training provides support services, specialised equipment and resources and professional development activities for school staff. Processes for accessing specific programs and assessments are contained in a document entitled Intervention First, which is available in 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 delays 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.

Dependants with Special Needs

ADF members with 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) Volume 2, Chapter 8 parts 4 and 6, and has been mentioned previously in this book. 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.

Determination 2007/36 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.

Educational Aspects of Determination 2007/36

Aspects of the DWSN policy that relate directly to educational issues 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 a child who is academically gifted and talented may apply to be recognised as DWSN under Determination 2007/36. 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 individual or group IQ test, or
 - on a subscale (for example, verbal or performance) of an individual IQ test, or
 - on any standardised test of achievement.
- Other than a special needs pre-posting visit (SNPPV), the only assistance available under the Determination 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 Determination 2007/36 and contact your local DCO office for further information about all aspects of this policy.

Northern Territory School Information

Darwin

Schools in dark type are Catholic or independent schools.

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

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

	Telephone	Facsimile
Alawa Preschool	(08) 8985 2059	(08) 8927 1695
Alawa Primary School 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 www.csc.nt.edu.au	(08) 8920 1211	(08) 8927 2421
Charles Darwin University – Casuarina Campus, Darwin www.cdu.edu.au	1800 061 963	(08) 8946 6642
* Darwin High School www.schools.nt.edu.au/darwinhs (Yrs 9–12 in 2008, Yrs 10–12 from 2009)	(08) 8999 1222	(08) 8981 2137
Darwin Middle School (Yrs 7–8 in 2008, Yrs 7–9 from 2009)	(08) 8942 5200	(08) 8942 5211
Dripstone High School www.schools.nt.edu.au/drpstnhs	(08) 8920 2299	(08) 8927 8898
The Essington School www.essington.nt.edu.au	(08) 8948 1255	(08) 8948 1910
Henbury Senior Years Sub-School 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 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 www.schools.nt.edu.au/holyspirit	(08) 8927 3411	(08) 8927 9971
Jingili Preschool	(08) 8985 3495	(08) 8985 3213
Jingili Primary School www.schools.nt.edu.au/jingili	(08) 8985 1555	(08) 8985 3213
Karama Preschool	(08) 8927 9394	(08) 8945 0261
Karama Primary School 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 www.schools.nt.edu.au/larrakeyah	(08) 8981 3211	(08) 8981 9062
Leanyer Preschool	(08) 8927 2894	(08) 8927 2566
* Leanyer Primary School http://users.bigpond.net.au/leanyerprimarieschool	(08) 8927 4022	(08) 8927 2566
Ludmilla Preschool	(08) 8999 3236	(08) 8999 3232
* Ludmilla Primary School www.schools.nt.edu.au/ludps	(08) 8999 3233	(08) 8999 3232
Malak Preschool	(08) 8927 5591	(08) 8945 3725

Malak Primary School www.malakps.net.edu.au	(08) 8927 9366	(08) 8945 1901
Manunda Terrace Preschool	(08) 8945 2929	(08) 8945 2486
Manunda Terrace Primary School www.schools.nt.edu.au/manunda	(08) 8927 7666	(08) 8945 2486
Marrara Christian School	(08) 8927 5777	(08) 8927 2242
Millner Preschool	(08) 8985 2061	(08) 8948 0751
Millner Primary School www.schools.nt.edu.au/millner	(08) 8948 1163	(08) 8948 0751
Moil Preschool	(08) 8927 1402	(08) 8945 2126
Moil Primary School www.moilps.nt.edu.au	(08) 8927 9711	(08) 8945 2126
Nakara Preschool	(08) 8927 3884	(08) 8927 7994
Nakara Primary School www.schools.nt.edu.au/nakara/	(08) 8927 9922	(08) 8927 7994
Nemarluk School www.nemarluk.nt.edu.au	(08) 8985 3100	(08) 8948 0016
Nightcliff Preschool	(08) 8948 8477	(08) 8948 8499
Nightcliff Middle School www.nightcliffhigh.com.au	(08) 8985 0850	(08) 8985 0860
Nightcliff Primary School www.nclifps.nt.edu.au	(08) 8948 8488	(08) 8948 8499
NT School of Languages www.schools.nt.edu.au/ntsol	(08) 8985 0905	(08) 8948 0420
NT Music School www.schools.nt.edu.au/ntmusic	(08) 8985 4732	(08) 8948 1778
NT Open Education Centre www.ntoec.nt.edu.au	(08) 8922 2292	(08) 8922 2258
O'Loughlin Catholic College www.oloughlin.nt.edu.au	(08) 8945 1277	(08) 8927 7140
Parap Preschool	(08) 8981 5146	(08) 8941 0090
Parap Primary School www.schools.nt.edu.au/parap	(08) 8982 2922	(08) 8941 0090
St Andrew's Lutheran School http://home.austarnet.com.au/sals	(08) 8945 1044	(08) 8927 5739
* St John's College www.stjohns.nt.catholic.edu.au	(08) 8982 2222	(08) 8941 1732
St Mary's Learning Centre	(08) 8981 9796	(08) 8981 5286
* St Mary's Primary School 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 www.stpaulsps.nt.catholic.edu.au	(08) 8985 1937	(08) 8948 0227
Sanderson Middle School www.schools.nt.edu.au/sanderhs	(08) 8927 8899	(08) 8927 2127
Milkwood Steiner School Kindergarten to Year 6	(08) 8927 0170	(08) 8927 0175
Stuart Park Preschool	(08) 8981 3374	

* Stuart Park Primary School www.schools.nt.edu.au/stuartpk	(08) 8981 6260	(08) 8941 1854
Wagaman Preschool	(08) 8922 6016	(08) 8922 6000
Wagaman Primary School www.schools.nt.edu.au/wagaman	(08) 8922 6011	(08) 8922 6000
Wanguri Preschool	(08) 8927 1293	
Wanguri Primary School www.schools.nt.edu.au/wanguri	(08) 8927 1655	(08) 8945 2193
Wulagi Preschool	(08) 8999 8745	(08) 8999 8765
Wulagi Primary School 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 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 www.schools.nt.edu.au/bcps/	(08) 8983 3222	(08) 8983 3120
Charles Darwin University – Palmerston Campus www.cdu.edu.au	(08) 8946 7800	(08) 8946 7833
Driver Preschool	(08) 8935 9090	(08) 8935 9035
* Driver Primary School www.schools.nt.edu.au/driverps	(08) 8935 9000	(08) 8935 9035
Durack Preschool	(08) 8932 8907	
* Durack Primary School www.schools.nt.edu.au/durack	(08) 8935 9259	(08) 8932 8894
Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School http://goodshepherd.nt.edu.au	(08) 8932 2003	(08) 8932 2848
Good Shepherd Lutheran Middle School http://goodshepherd.nt.edu.au	(08) 8983 0300	(08) 8983 0333
Gray Preschool	(08) 8932 1614	(08) 8932 1007
Gray Primary School www.schools.nt.edu.au/grays	(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 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 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 High School – Middle Years Sub School – Senior Years Sub School www.schools.nt.edu.au/palmhs	(08) 8935 0222	(08) 8932 2232

Sacred Heart Early Learning Centre	(08) 8932 2888	(08) 8932 2388
* Sacred Heart Primary School 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 www.taminmin.nt.edu.au	(08) 8988 0000	(08) 8988 2351
Woodroffe Preschool	(08) 8932 2338	(08) 8932 3851
Woodroffe Primary School 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 www.schools.nt.edu.au/csps	(08) 8971 2643	(08) 8971 3791
Charles Darwin University www.cdu.edu.au – Katherine Campus – NT Rural College	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 www.schools.nt.edu.au/clydefen	(08) 8972 1278	(08) 8972 3067
Katherine Middle Years Sub School www.middleyears.nt.gov.au/	Middle Years Hotline 1800 722 030	
Katherine School of the Air www.schools.nt.edu.au/ksa	(08) 8972 1933	(08) 8972 3651
* Katherine High School – Middle Years Sub School – Senior Years Sub School 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 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 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 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 Centres and Family Day Care

To contact the family day care coordinator in your area, telephone:

Darwin Family Day Care
(08) 8945 2945

Palmerston/Rural Family Day Care
(08) 8932 2457

Child care centres and creches operate throughout the Darwin/Palmerston areas. Playgroups are run at each of the Defence bases. The YMCA convenes regular playgroups, as do the council libraries.

Family Day Care

Chelsea's Home & Family Care (x2), Nightcliff
Tel: (08) 8948 2888

Darwin Family Day Care, Darwin
Tel: (08) 8945 2945

Kentish Family Day Care, Palmerston
Tel: (08) 8932 2457

Emergency and Respite Care

ABC Babysitting & Domestic Services
Tel: (08) 8932 1752

Chelsea's Home & Family Day Care
Tel: (08) 8948 2888

Contacts

National Child Care Accreditation Council
Internet: www.ncac.gov.au

Child Care Access Hotline
Tel: 1800 670 305

ABC Child Care Services (now holds the
Defence contract)
Tel: 1800 222 543

Internet: www.nt.gov.au/health/topics.shtml
(click the link labelled 'child care')

Long Day Care Centres

Darwin Central

ABC Stuart Park
Tel: (08) 8981 1599

ABC Stuart Park Centre 2
Tel: (08) 8941 4044

Early Care, Darwin City Centre
Tel: (08) 8981 7171

Mitchell Street Childcare Centre, Darwin
Tel: (08) 8981 3408

Parap Family Centre, Parap
Tel: (08) 8981 4283

St Mary's Early Learning Centre
Tel: (08) 8981 9796

Stuart Park Neighbourhood &
Childcare Centre, Stuart Park
Tel: (08) 8981 8968

Darwin Northern Suburbs

ABC Darwin (near airport)
Tel: (08) 8947 9322

ABC Berrimah
Tel: (08) 8984 3668

ABC Nightcliff
Tel: (08) 8985 5622

ABC Tiwi
Tel: (08) 8945 5005

Casuarina Childcare Centre, Casuarina
Tel: (08) 8927 4180

Dripstone Children's Centre, Brinkin
Tel: (08) 8945 1944

Essington Preschool Childcare Centre, Nightcliff
Tel: (08) 8948 1255

Holy Family Early Learning Centre*
Tel: (08) 8927 6188

Holy Spirit Early Learning Centre
Tel: (08) 8927 3411

Jingili Childcare Centre, Jingili
Tel: (08) 8985 4042

Karama Child Care Centre, Karama
Tel: (08) 8927 5850

Little Treasures Childcare Centre, Leanyer
Tel: (08) 8927 4738

Lutheran Child Care Centre, Nightcliff
Tel: (08) 8985 4170

Malak Family Centre, Malak
Tel: (08) 8927 2443

Marrara Family Centre, Jingili
Tel: (08) 8985 3696

Nightcliff Family Centre, Nightcliff
Tel: (08) 8985 4535

NT University Childcare Centre, Casuarina
Tel: (08) 8946 6913

Rainbows Holy Family Early Learning Centre,
Karama
Tel: (08) 89276188

Rapid Creek Childcare Inc, Rapid Creek
Tel: (08) 8985 3861

St Paul's Early Learning Centre, Nightcliff
Tel: (08) 8985 1911

The Essington Early Childhood Centre, Rapid Creek
Tel: (08) 8985 3861

Top End Early Learning Centre Inc, Tiwi
(Royal Darwin Hospital campus)
Tel: (08) 8927 9259

Wagaman Childcare Centre, Wagaman
Tel: (08) 8945 0411

*Early learning centres normally enrol children from
three to five years of age.

Palmerston

ABC Bakewell
Tel: (08) 8932 7337

ABC Durack Centre 1
Tel: (08) 8932 7000

ABC Durack Centre 2
Tel: (08) 8931 4122

ABC Gray
Tel: (08) 8932 4264

ABC Fairway Waters
Tel: (08) 8932 7337

ABC Moulden North
Tel: (08) 8932 7133

ABC Moulden South
Tel: (08) 8932 7766

Gray Childcare Centre, Gray
Tel: (08) 8932 1012

Palmerston Child Care Centre, Bakewell
Tel: (08) 8932 8000

Preeti Kunj Childcare Centre, Palmerston
Tel: (08) 8932 1861

Sacred Heart Early Learning Centre
Tel: (08) 8932 2888

Scallywags Childcare Centre, Moulden
Tel: (08) 8932 3232

Woodroffe Childcare Centre, Woodroffe
Tel: (08) 8932 3231

Rural Darwin/Palmerston

ABC Bees Creek
Tel: (08) 8983 1655

De's Daycare, Howard Springs
Tel: (08) 8983 3009

Humpty Doo Community and Child Care Centre Inc
Tel: (08) 8988 1003

St Francis of Assisi Early Learning Centre
Tel: (08) 8988 1212

Virginia Childcare Centre, Virginia
Tel: (08) 8983 1148

Katherine

ABC Tindal
Tel: (08) 8973 6566

Katherine Regional Family Day Care Centre
Tel: (08) 8971 0079

Katherine East Child Care Centre
Tel: (08) 8972 3317

Katherine East Early Learning Centre
Tel: (08) 8971 0253

Little Mangoes Child Care Centre
Tel: (08) 8971 3335

St Joseph's Early Learning Centre
Tel: (08) 8972 3555

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 – a book to help parents to assist their teenage children to cope with changing homes and changing schools.

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.

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

Education Assistance – outlines the financial assistance available under this scheme.

Choosing a Tutor – a guide to help select a tutor for a child.

This book contains information on the most requested issues. If you have any further questions or issues relating to education and schooling in the Northern Territory, please do not hesitate to contact your REDLO:

Tel: (08) 8935 7907

Email: redlo.nt@defence.gov.au



Notes