

DEFENCE COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

*The Defence Community Organisation
Defence capability by delivering family
services, information and programs to
commanders of the Australian Defence*



DCO supports ADF families in peace and war

WELCOME TO TINDAL



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Welcome to Tindal

This Welcome Book has been prepared by the Defence Community Organisation (DCO) for Defence personnel and their families posting to the Katherine region.

The book captures a wide range of general and local information to assist you to settle into your new location. Katherine and the surrounding region have a lot to offer you, making this a posting with many exciting opportunities.

We have endeavoured to include as much information as possible in this guide, however if you have specific needs or require further information, please feel free to contact us. A list of essential services and useful contact numbers is included at the back of the book.

Your local DCO team hopes you enjoy your posting, and we look forward to being of assistance to you.

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Contents

Welcome to Tindal	1	Health	19
Introduction and Welcomes	3	ADF Family Health Trial	19
Welcome from Commanding Officer		Katherine Hospital	20
322 ECSS – Senior ADF Officer Tindal	3	Dependant Specialist Medical	
Welcome from the Commanding		Travel Allowance	20
Officer 75 SQN	4	Dental and Medical Surgeries	21
Welcome Message from the		Medicare	21
Mayor of Katherine	5	Health Centre Services	21
Jawoyn Welcome	6	Other Support Services	22
		Living in the Tropics	22
		Sun Smart	23
		Pests and Insects	23
Defence Support Services	7	Defence Community Groups	25
Defence Community Organisation (DCO)	7	Defence Special Needs Support Group	
Chaplaincy Services	8	(DSNSG)	25
		Defence Families of Australia (DFA)	25
		Tindal Christmas Treat	26
		Other Community Groups	27
Defence Base	9	Local Community	28
RAAF Base Tindal	9		
Base Information	9	General Services	30
RAAF Base Tindal Community Amenities	10		
		Essential Services	32
		Transport	33
		Pet Care	34
		Emergency Information	34
		Important Numbers	35
		Notes	36
Education	13		
Employment	14		
The Partner Education and Employment			
Program (PEEP)	14		
Children’s Services	15		
Defence Child Care Program	15		
Child Care in Katherine	16		
Special Needs	16		
Relocations and Housing	17		
Defence Relocations and Housing Manager	17		
Defence Housing Australia	17		
Toll Transitions	18		
Housing in Katherine	18		

Introduction and Welcomes

Welcome from Commanding Officer 322 ECSS – Senior ADF Officer Tindal

As Commanding Officer No. 322 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron (322 ECSS) and Senior Australian Defence Force Officer Tindal, I take great pleasure in welcoming all per-personnel posted to RAAF Base Tindal. Also, welcome to the family members and dependants accompanying serving members on this posting.

The primary task of 322 ECSS is to enable airbase operations at RAAF Tindal and in the expeditionary environment. The open spaces of Tindal, our location outside the cyclone belt, and our proximity to the Delamere Range Facility make this base an attractive location from which to host domestic and international exercises. Typical exercises include Arnhem Thunder, Pitch Black, Southern Frontier and Talisman Sabre.

The 322 ECSS contribution to Combat Support Group's expeditionary role will see some unit personnel deployed in support of ADF operations at any given time.

The Katherine and Tindal community provide a wealth of resources, activities and unique experiences that make life enjoyable and rewarding in the Top End. I encourage you to make every effort to ensure that your time here is as interesting and enjoyable as possible.

Air Force members and families provide many of the threads that make up the social fabric of the Katherine community. You can get

involved in your hobbies or sports clubs and really contribute to the community at Tindal or in town. Your contribution to clubs, associations and local events helps to make this a great community.

Living and working in this small Service community provides many unique opportunities to get involved, meet other families and make new friends.

I sincerely hope you enjoy your time in the Top End and I look forward to seeing you in Tindal.

Allister McInerney
WGCDR
CO 322 ECSS
SADFO Tindal



Welcome from the Commanding Officer 75 SQN

As Commanding Officer of No. 75 Squadron (75 SQN), I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all Defence members and families posted to RAAF Base Tindal, and in particular those joining 75 SQN.

It is with great pride that I command 75 SQN. This Squadron was born in a baptism of fire, engaged in combat within two weeks of its inception in 1942. The unit operated for 44 days against superior Japanese forces before being withdrawn, having fought until its resources were depleted, and airmen and aircrew were exhausted. This unwavering resolve was repeatedly displayed throughout further conflicts within the South-west Pacific Theatre during World War II, and more recently in support of Coalition Operations in the recent Gulf War. The contributions of the men and women of 75 SQN in Operation Falconer resulted in the award of the unit citation now worn by each member.

Today 75 SQN is the largest F/A-18 unit in the Air Force. We have approximately 250 members, all of whom play a vital role in maintaining the proud tradition of the Squadron. With some of the least restricted airspace in the world at our doorstep, the Squadron regularly participates in a number of exercises each year, both local and international. Our mission – to generate superior air combat capability – is only achieved through the dedication and professionalism of every member within the Squadron; it is a mission we excel in. I welcome all new members and families to this unique unit; it is without doubt the best in the RAAF.

Life in the Northern Territory is a unique experience and a great adventure. While some of you may be returning to Tindal for a second, and in some instances third, posting,

others will be experiencing the Top End for the first time. Regardless of whether you have lived here before, or are new to the Northern Territory, I encourage everyone to make the most of the opportunities associated with a posting to Tindal. The town of Katherine and the Northern Territory and surrounding areas offer some unique experiences and there are many opportunities to get involved in your local community.

I am well aware that relocating is not without its difficulties, and it is quite normal for newly-posted members and families to feel challenged as they adjust to life at Tindal. The welfare of you and your family is of utmost importance to me and I encourage you to take advantage of the range of support facilities available to ensure that your time here is as enjoyable as possible. Please don't hesitate to contact the Squadron if we can assist with your settling-in process in any way.

Once again, welcome to Tindal and 75 SQN. I sincerely hope you enjoy your time here.

Philip Arms, CSC
WGCDR
CO 75 Squadron



Welcome Message from the Mayor of Katherine

On behalf of the Katherine community and Katherine Town Council, I warmly welcome you to our town. I trust that you will treat Katherine as your town while you are here, and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the next few months.

Katherine is situated some 315 km south-east of Darwin, and 1,144 km north of Alice Springs. Katherine is located at the junction of the Stuart and Victoria Highways, making it the gateway to Western Australia, Darwin and Kakadu National Park.

Katherine offers a variety of businesses, including the Commonwealth, Bendigo, ANZ and Westpac banks, which provide a full range of banking and financial services. Various Commonwealth and Northern Territory government departments are also represented in Katherine. The town of Katherine offers a variety of sporting venues, parks, recreation facilities, cultural activities and a library. The beautiful rivers in the Katherine region are well known as spots for camping, canoeing and recreational fishing.

A range of retail food, clothing, household appliance and toy shops, newsagents and other stores operate within Katherine, together with several stock and station agents, which service the rural sector. Woolworths supermarket is located in Katherine Central Shopping Centre and is open seven days a week. Prices are the same as in Darwin, although fresh, locally-grown fruit and vegetables can be bought more cheaply.

Katherine has many restaurants which reflect the diverse mix of people living in our town. Katherine also enjoys a wide variety of television and radio stations including

community radio 8KTR, which broadcasts on FM 101.3. *The Katherine Times* is the local newspaper, and is published every Wednesday.

The Indigenous Jawoyn people are the traditional owners of the Nitmiluk National Park – ‘Katherine Gorge’ – which is located 29 km from Katherine on a sealed road. The gorge consists of 13 natural gorges carved through sandstone by the Katherine River. Rocks and boulders separate each gorge. The gorge offers a beautiful backdrop for tourists and locals to enjoy swimming and canoeing.

In the Northern Territory, we have two seasons: the wet season and the dry season. The wet season is from November to April. This is the period in which we receive most of our annual rainfall. Afternoon showers and thunderstorms are regular, bringing relief from the hot days. The Territory comes alive during this season – rain replenishes the groundwater and our lush green bushland flourishes. Wildlife abounds, including the crocodile, for which the Territory is famous. During the wet flooding can occur, so check conditions with the Katherine Visitor Information Centre if you plan to go off the main highways during these months.

The dry season is from May to October. Most visitors come at this time of the year, as humidity levels are lower and the weather is cooler. The weather is perfect for exploring everything the Northern Territory has to offer. The daily temperature ranges between 25 °C and 30 °C.

The defence of our country is all-important, and we very much appreciate your commitment and dedication. On behalf of the Katherine community I welcome you and trust that you will enjoy living in this very exciting part of Australia.

Anne Shepherd
Mayor of Katherine



Jawoyn Welcome

I am pleased to welcome you to Tindal Air Base on behalf of the Jawoyn Association – so I am not just welcoming you here to Tindal, but also to Jawoyn land.

All the country to the east, as far as Mainoru, and to the north, as far as the southern Kakadu area, is the traditional land of the Jawoyn people. It is a big country.

Few of you might realise this, but the Jawoyn people have had a long relationship with the Australian Defence Forces. Back in World War II, the Japanese bombed Katherine and a Jawoyn man was killed and another wounded on that first raid.

During the war, there were a number of Army camps around Katherine, and many of our forebears worked for the Army; often it was the first time that Aboriginal people were paid with money instead of being paid with tea, flour and tobacco. We therefore remember that the Defence Forces treated us fairly. Jawoyn and other Aboriginal people in Katherine fought in the Australian Defence Forces in Korea and Vietnam.

Back in the early 1980s, when the proposal came forward to build Tindal as a large air base, our elders carried out sacred-site clearance work to allow the base to be built. To this day, the Air Force has fenced off one of our dreaming sites, and helps us look after it.

The Air Force has been a good citizen in the Katherine community, even though many of you are here only for a short time. Back in 1989, the Air Force helped us celebrate getting back our title to the Nitmiluk National Park at Katherine Gorge. You have helped us with organising our annual meetings and helped us with the festivals at Barunga. I take this opportunity to thank the Air Force for its help in the past, and hope we can keep this good relationship going in the future.

I know that many of you arriving here for the first time are a long way from your families, and all of you are far away from your homes. I know this will be hard for you, and I hope that you are not lonely here in Katherine, because it is good country here, even if it is sometimes very hot and wet.

I know you might think I am biased, but I think Jawoyn country is the best in the world. It is country that we are now sharing with you and other visitors, and that is why I hope you grow to love this country like we do.

For enquiries about where you can go or not go on Jawoyn country, please feel free to give our office a call on Tel: (08) 8971 1100.

Regards,

**Chairperson
Jawoyn Association**



Defence Support Services

Defence Community Organisation (DCO)

How We Can Assist You

On behalf of Command, DCO delivers a broad range of targeted programs and services to support ADF personnel and their families to balance the demands of military service with personal and family commitments.

Your local DCO team is staffed by Social Workers, Military Support Officers, Regional Education Liaison Officers, Family Liaison Officers and administrative staff who are available to assist you and your family through the provision of:

- support in time of crisis
- information on Defence matters in general
- advice on community, recreational and interest groups
- deployment support
- mobility support
- professional counselling for personal, relationship and family problems
- various courses, information sessions and support groups
- specialist education advice and assistance
- special needs recognition and review
- employment assistance
- child care assistance.

Upon your arrival, please contact our staff if you would like further information not covered in this publication, or if you would like to be linked to local Defence and community activities and support groups.

Where To Find Us

Tindal Community Centre
Easton Pde

Tel: (08) 8973 7134

Fax: (08) 8973 6135

Email: dco.tindal@defence.gov.au

DCO Website

The DCO website (Internet: www.defence.gov.au/dco) provides Defence families with ready access to information on a broad range of ADF member and family topics.

After Hours Emergency Support

The DCO office is open from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday. All requests for emergency DCO assistance outside these hours and on public holidays should be directed to the National Welfare Coordination Centre (NWCC) on Tel: **1800 801 026**.

NWCC will not transfer callers directly to DCO but, where necessary, will pass a request for assistance to a DCO Duty Officer who will return the call. DCO assistance out of hours is available in emergency situations only. Any non-emergency cases are referred for follow-up assistance during normal business hours.

Tindal Community Centre, Rooms 2 and 3/4

These rooms are available for use by Defence members and families, for community groups, support functions and not-for-profit activities. To check availability and book the rooms, contact the DCO Tindal office.



Tindal Community Centre is also the location of the DCO office, Community Rooms, Tindal Preschool and B4Kids (Big Geckos) Out of Hours School Care and Vacation Care programs.

DCO Tindal Community Email Database

DCO Tindal has created a community email database that has enabled improved access to information for members of the local Defence community. DCO Tindal has been corresponding with families this way for many years, and it's a great way to inform the Defence community of what's happening around the region. For more information or to register your email address, contact the Tindal office.

Chaplaincy Services

Defence chaplains throughout Australia provide religious services and pastoral care to members and their families, and advice to Commanders and staff on spiritual and moral welfare.

Chaplains conduct religious services (including baptisms, weddings and funerals) and memorial services. The RAAF Welfare Trust Fund is accessed via the chaplains.

St Peter's Chapel, RAAF Tindal

The chapel, which serves the whole base community, has the distinction of being the only purpose-built chapel in the RAAF. Construction was completed in October 1995 and the chapel was officially opened on 21 November 1995 by Air Commodore Frank Burt, OBE. Apart from being a place for prayer and worship, the chapel is open during the day as a 'quiet space' for all members and families.

St Peter's Chapel and the chaplain's offices are located near Frontline Defence Services.

Sunday services are run each week. The time and denomination of these services depends upon the availability of chaplains.

RAAF Tindal Base Chaplains

Tel: (08) 8973 6032 or (08) 8973 6033

Fax: (08) 8973 6097

There is a chaplain on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please phone the main switch on Tel: (08) 8973 6111, or the Base Command Post on Tel: (08) 8973 6888, and ask to speak to the Tindal Duty Chaplain.



Defence Base

RAAF Base Tindal

RAAF Base Tindal is 17 km from the centre of the town of Katherine, and 320 km by road south-east of Darwin. Planning for the first stage of the base's development began in 1982 and, after Commonwealth Government approval, construction of the base began in September 1984. RAAF Base Tindal was officially opened in October 1988.

Tindal occupies an area of 122 square kilometres and has a 75 km perimeter. Originally known as Carson's Airfield, Tindal was built during World War II as one of a number of airfields in the Northern Territory to support Allied bomber operations. Construction began in mid-1942 and was completed in 1944. Reconstruction and extensions were undertaken by No. 5 Airfield Construction Squadron in October 1963 and completed in 1970. The airfield was renamed after Wing Commander A.R. Tindal, who was killed in action during the first Japanese air raid on Darwin on 19 February 1942.

Tindal was seen to have important operational and environmental advantages over other sites. Tindal, for example, is sufficiently distant from the coast to be essentially unaffected by tropical cyclone activity. The base's location offers considerable natural protection and an environment that enhances the quality of RAAF flying operations.

Defence Units at Tindal

The major units based at Tindal are 322 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron (322 ECSS), including Delamere Range Facility, and No. 75 Squadron (75 SQN).

There are also detachments of the following RAAF units:

No. 44 Wing Detachment Tindal

No. 1 Combat Logistics Squadron

No. 1 Air Terminal Squadron Detachment Tindal

2 Expeditionary Health Squadron Detachment Tindal

No. 2 Control and Reporting Unit

Base Information

Remote Locality Entitlements and Allowances

There are a number of additional allowances and benefits associated with a posting to RAAF Base Tindal, due to the remote locality and weather conditions.

These allowances include District Allowance, Remote Locality Leave Travel (RLLT) and Dependent Specialist Medical Travel.

Information on these entitlements is available from 322 ECSS Base Personnel Administration Centre (BPAC) and is detailed in the ADF Pay and Conditions Manual (PACMAN). Further information on entitlements and allowances can be obtained from the members' Orderly Room.

Driving On Base

All serving members and their dependants who drive a motor vehicle on base are subject to the Northern Territory Traffic Act. Drivers are to comply with Northern Territory regulations regarding: licences, registration, wearing seatbelts, adhering to speed limits, obeying street signs, use of hands-free mobile phones only, and wearing helmets when cycling.

Dependants' Passes

Passes are required for all members, spouses and their dependants over the age of 12 years, for access to the base (on-base cinema included), the gym and swimming pool. Passes should be carried on you whenever there is an exercise. To obtain your Tindal pass, you are required to complete the necessary paperwork (with the Unit Security Officer's signature). Please contact the front gate pass office on Tel: (08) 8973 6228 to make an appointment.

Vehicle Passes

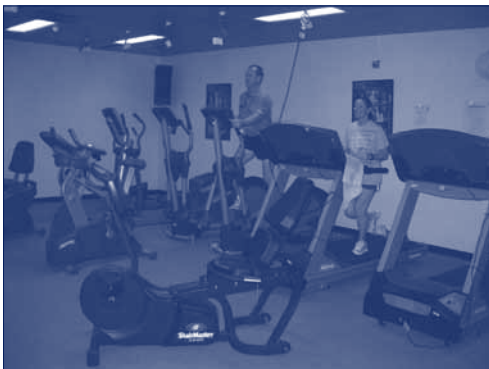
All civilian-plated vehicles require vehicle passes and parking permits before access on base is granted. Passes and permits can be obtained from the front gate pass office.

RAAF Base Tindal Community Amenities

Located on Newham Cct, opposite the Airman's Mess, are the following amenities and services.

Gymnasium

The gym is equipped with squash courts, an air-conditioned gymnasium that caters for weight training, indoor sports, and a circuit room. The gym is open at all times. Access is via a proxy card after hours. These proxy cards are issued to members, their dependants and Defence civilian employees through the front gate pass office.



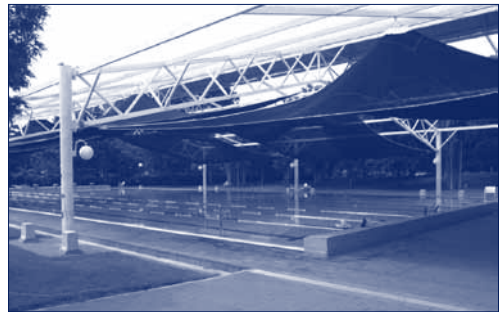
Welfare Store

The welfare store hires out camping equipment, canoes and kayaks to Defence members and their families. The RAAF Base Tindal welfare store is located at the gymnasium.

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10.30 am to 11.30 am.

Swimming Pool

Opening hours are 6.00 am to 8.30 pm, Monday to Friday, and 6.30 am to 9.00 pm on weekends. The base pool complex has an Olympic-sized pool and a wading pool. It is situated opposite the gym. A civilian pool attendant supervises the pool complex during opening hours and has the authority of the Base Commander to enforce the rules as necessary.



For access to the pool, either a member or dependant is required to carry and produce their pass. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult. No alcohol or glass containers are permitted in the pool area.

Frontline Defence Services



Frontline Defence Services is proud of its 95 year history of supporting Australian Defence personnel.

Tasked by the Chief of the Army and Air Force to provide convenient, inviting and competitive on-base canteens, these services then allow us to support local Defence communities through injecting surplus profits back into the community via direct sponsorship and cash disbursements from vending to the Relief Trust Fund (RTF) and welfare trusts.

Opening hours

Monday to Thursday, 7.00 am to 7.00 pm

Friday, 7.00 am to 8.30 pm

Saturday, 10.00 am to 6.00 pm

Sunday, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Tel: (08) 8973 6200

Internet: www.frontlineds.com.au

Frontline is located near the post office.

Services provided include: take-away food, take-away alcohol, groceries, automatic teller machine (ATM) and EFTPOS, magazines and papers, fuel (diesel, unleaded, leaded), ice and gas bottle exchange.

Post Office

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday, 10.00 am to 2.00pm

Tel: (08) 8973 6335

The post office is located next to Defcredit. There is no mail delivery to homes on base; however, there are private boxes available. The post office is a Commonwealth Bank agency and you can pay most of your bills there.

Banking/Credit Unions

Defence Force Credit Union (Defcredit)

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 4.30 pm

Tel: (08) 8973 6336

Defcredit is located next to the post office and offers all Defcredit services.



Hairdresser

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Tel: (08) 8973 6187

The hairdresser is located on the upper level in the gymnasium. After-hours appointments are available for colours, etc. The hairdresser provides a service for members, families and civilian employees – both men and women.

Tindal Moonlit Cinema

The Tindal Moonlit Cinema operates throughout the dry season (April to November), providing entertainment under the stars. The cinema is located on the base. You can see the latest movies at a minimal cost; just bring your own chair, rug or beanbag. Food stalls are provided for those who want a drink or a hot snack. Serving members, dependants, Defence civilian employees, honorary mess members and their invited guests may attend the cinema.

There are only a few rules: glass is not permitted in the cinema grounds, rubbish is to be placed in the bins provided, movie ratings are to be strictly adhered to and smoking is not permitted within the cinema grounds.

Tindal Community Times

Tindal Community Times (TCT) is a regular newsletter produced by and for the families of RAAF Base Tindal. TCT provides an opportunity for groups such as the various mess communities, sporting clubs and local community groups to promote and advertise their activities and events. It also provides useful directories and contact information. The newsletter provides a valuable service to the Tindal Defence community and is produced by a group of volunteers. The TCT committee welcomes your contributions, ideas and any assistance you may wish to offer. Please support your community newsletter.

Sport and Recreational Clubs

Katherine and Tindal offer a wide variety of sporting and recreational clubs. Be aware that often, due to the region's climate, sporting seasons differ from those 'down south'. You can access information about these groups in your *Business and Community Directory* (included in your welcome pack or available from the DCO) or in the local newspapers. Alternatively, call or drop in to the DCO for information on your favourite activities.

Education

Regional Education Liaison Officer (REDLO)

The Regional Education Liaison Officer (REDLO) can provide you with information and advice about the education system in your posting locality, and the Education Assistance Scheme available through the Department of Defence.

The DCO booklet, *Education – Northern Territory*, is available from the REDLO and contains information about preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary education in Northern Territory. It also covers services available for children with special needs, information on changing schools and details of the Education Assistance Scheme.

Defence School Transition Aide (DSTA)

Defence funds Defence School Transition Aides (DSTAs) in a number of schools in the Northern Territory. DSTAs (Primary) and Defence Transition Mentors (Secondary) are employed to assist families as they relocate to a new school.

They may:

- organise activities that welcome and farewell ADF families and help them settle into the new school community
- assist the school to understand the needs of ADF parents and their children
- inform the school and support families if ADF members are deployed
- help families with special needs
- assist families to collect work portfolios and academic records or reports for the new school
- act as a point of contact for ADF families in the new school.

The DSTA helps all Defence children at the school should they seek or require assistance. It is not intended that the DSTA work with one child on a long-term basis.

Contact the REDLO for further information.

REDLO NT

Tel: (08) 8935 7900

Email: redlo.nt@defence.gov.au

Handy Contacts

To view a school location map, please visit the Department of Employment, Education and Training website and click on 'School Locations and Maps'.

Internet: www.deet.nt.gov.au/education

Employment

The Partner Education and Employment Program (PEEP)

Take a PEEP at your future

If you are a recognised partner of an ADF member, DCO's Partner Education and Employment Program, or PEEP, may be able to help you manage your career development.

PEEP Tier 1 provides an education and employment allowance of \$12,000 for a 10-year period to assist recognised ADF partners to better position themselves for employment through a range of initiatives when posted with the ADF member. Tier 1 is capped at \$6,000 per posting locality for assistance with: superannuation setup; professional employment assistance; child care, education and training; personalised resume preparation; and professional re-registration expense payments.

PEEP Tier 2 is an in-financial year 'one-off' payment of up to \$3,000 to be used for vocational courses, up to and including first-time undergraduate courses.

PEEP Tier 2 will be available for the next three years and is aimed at the partners of the more junior officer and enlisted ranks. Applications will be open to the partners of Private to Sergeant ranks (and their equivalents) and to the partners of Lieutenant to Captain ranks (and equivalents).

Tertiary studies assistance under PEEP

Partners are encouraged to undertake tertiary studies through Open Universities Australia (OUA). This allows partners to continue their education wherever they may be posted, whether in Australia or overseas. OUA offers the following benefits to Defence partners:

- access to an online enrolment facility and unique client code
- access to a priority corporate support team through a dedicated email contact point
- a dedicated 1300 number supported by a team to assist partners in making the right choice about higher education and government loan options
- a flexible international higher education study offer for clients no matter what their location
- financial support to each student who enrolls using the code for the purchase of text books for the first five units
- extended online tutorial support.

Looking for a job? Try Jobsearch

ADF partners when seeking employment are encouraged to use Jobsearch – Australia's largest free online jobs website:

Internet: www.jobsearch.com.au

Want a peep at PEEP?

For more information on PEEP initiatives, including eligibility criteria and application forms, please visit the DCO website:

Internet: www.defence.gov.au/dco/PEEP

Children's Services

Defence Child Care Program

The purpose of the Defence Child Care Program is to aid mobility by facilitating priority of access to child care for Defence families where the local community is unable to meet the demand for child care places. Accordingly, the program is focused on ensuring that mobile Defence families can access some form of child care on arrival in the gaining locality. This is achieved through a variety of centre and non-centre-based child care. Defence does not directly subsidise the cost of any form of child care for Defence families, nor is child care an entitlement.

Defence Child Care Centres

There are currently 21 Defence child care centres across Australia that participate in the National Childcare Accreditation Council Quality Improvement Program. These centres are managed by B4Kids Pty Ltd and are required to meet the State/Territory Child Care Regulations for licensing and the requirements for the Child Care Benefit (CCB). The centres provide priority of access to Defence families in accordance with Defence's Priority of Access (POA) guidelines.

A full list of the centres and the Defence POA guidelines are available on the DCO website.

National Enrolment Call Centre

The B4Kids Enrolment Call Centre can be contacted on Tel: 1300 265 600, for Defence families to:

- access placements in Defence child care centres
- book child care in the preferred location in advance of relocating to that area

- receive information on other centres in the general line of travel between work and home, if child care is not available in the family's preferred centre
- receive information regarding employment in Defence child care centres.

Family Day Care

Family day care is home-based child care by a qualified, monitored family day care provider. You can contact the schemes in your area through Family Day Care Australia on 1800 621 218.

Handy Contacts

Defence Community Organisation

Internet: www.defence.gov.au/dco/childcare.htm

B4Kids Pty Ltd

Internet: www.b4kids.com.au

Tel: 1300 265 600 or (07) 3326 5600

Child Care Access Hotline

– provides up-to-date information about child care options and locations

Tel: 1800 670 305

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

– Office of Early Childhood Education and Child Care

Internet: www.mychild.gov.au

MyChild Hotline

Tel: 13 36 84

The National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC)

Internet: www.ncac.gov.au

Family Day Care Australia

Tel: (02) 4320 1100 or 1800 621 218

Internet: www.familydaycare.com.au

Child Care in Katherine

Katherine has a variety of child care services available. These include four licensed day care centres, family day care, outside school hours care and vacation care.

As Katherine is a small community with limited resources, it is important that you ascertain the availability of the child care service you require as early as possible. For further information on child care in the Katherine area, please contact the Family Liaison Officer. Tel: (08) 8973 6353



To locate a childcare provider in a location of your choice, contact one of the above Handy Contacts, or contact the DCO FLO for more information on child care providers in the local area.

Special Needs

When Defence families with special needs are posted, they may have difficulties accessing the services they require. The problems families experience are due to the different eligibility criteria for accessing services, such as therapy (speech and occupational therapy) and respite, due to the lengthy waiting lists and, in some instances, the lack of service providers. When relocating, some families require housing modifications and specific accommodation which caters for the additional requirements of the family member with special needs.

In order to address some of these difficulties Defence has a policy (PACMAN Ch 8 Part 6) that provides a range of assistance measures that can be accessed by ADF families who are formally recognised as having a dependant with special needs. The Dependants with Special Needs Program includes:

- a process whereby families have their status as a member with a special needs dependant formally recognised
- a process whereby families have the assistance required by the special needs dependant reviewed prior to relocating

- a special needs pre-posting visit
- assistance to access specialised equipment in the new locality
- assistance to access therapy services in the new locality
- assistance to access respite services in the new locality
- assistance with identifying appropriate housing and transit accommodation.

Contact your local DCO office for more information or request a CD ROM that explains the process for applying for recognition or, undertake an assessment of assistance required by the special needs dependant.

Children with Special Needs

The decision on where to enrol a student, and with what level of support, will depend on a number of factors, including the student's educational needs, the expressed desires of parents and caregivers, the capacity of the education system to provide the level of support services required at a particular location, and the availability of appropriate support services at alternative locations.

It is important that parents of children with special needs contact the REDLO as soon as notification of posting is given to facilitate the appropriate placement, so that the support required is available for the student from the time of arrival at the new school.

Relocations and Housing

Defence Relocations and Housing Manager

Defence Relocations and Housing Managers (DRHMs) are employed to assist ADF members and their families by liaising with Defence Housing Australia (DHA), Toll Transitions and the Defence Community Organisation in each region, to make their relocation easier for them and their families. If you have an enquiry regarding your housing, maintenance, allocation and/or relocation services, or if you are dissatisfied with the service provider or any decisions made by DHA or Toll, your local DRHM (listed below) can assist you in addressing and resolving your concerns.

Area
Tindal
Names
Kylie Henderson
Telephone
(08) 8935 4346
Mobile
-
Fax
-

Defence Housing Australia



DHA was established in 1988 with the aim of improving the quality and selection of housing for Defence members and their families. DHA manages approximately 17,300 residences around Australia and provides a range of services to help ease the pressure on Defence families – we will support you and your family throughout your tenancy, from moving in, to living in, and then moving out of your home.

If you need support throughout your tenancy, then our staff can assist you. You can phone our information line on **139 DHA (139 342)** for advice or visit our website (www.dha.gov.au).

DHA also has Housing Management Centres and local offices located near major Defence establishments to provide effective support for you and your family wherever you need it.

Internet: www.dha.gov.au

Tel: 139 DHA (139 342)

Toll Transitions



Toll Transitions provide Defence members and their families with a total relocation service.

Your Toll Transitions case manager will assist you with your relocation requirements including travel, temporary accommodation, removal, storage and payment of your relocation allowances and entitlements.

You will receive a "Your Defence Relocation Guide", from Toll Transitions giving you detailed information to assist you with your relocation. You are also able to download this guide from the Toll Transitions website.

You can complete your Pre-AFR, AFR and inventory online at the Toll Transitions website www.tolltransitions.com.au/defence and "Your Defence Relocation Guide" explains the simple steps required to do this. You are able to maintain multiple inventory details online, giving you a current record of your goods and their whereabouts at any point in time. You can use these saved inventories should you move again.

After your move, in the unfortunate event of loss or damage, you can submit your notice of Loss or Damage online direct to Toll Transitions' Warranty Management Centre (WMC).

For 24-hour relocation enquiries and assistance, contact Toll Transitions on
Tel: **1800 819 167**.

Housing in Katherine

Single Living-in Accommodation (Members without Dependants MWOD/Members with Dependants, Unaccompanied MWD-U)

For ranks AC/W to CPL there are two types of living-in (LI) accommodation available in Tindal.

All LI members of these ranks are allocated accommodation in Level 5 built in 2004. Rooms are fully self-contained, with kitchen facilities and bathroom.

There is a shared laundry. Storage sheds are allocated near the carports and one carport is allocated per person.

If this accommodation is not available, members will be allocated to a refurbished block located at Tindal. Each block contains three rooms with a shared bathroom/laundry area, kitchenette and common room. Storage sheds are located near the carports and one carport is allocated per person.

The accommodation for Sergeants and above is located between the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. Each block offers ground-level accommodation housing two people per block. Each block has four rooms and there is a washbasin facility in each room. All blocks have a shared bathroom/laundry facility, kitchenette and common room. Each member is allocated a carport.

With reference to the installation of Austar, the internet, phone connection or any other questions, please call the Tindal Accommodation cell.

Tel: (08) 8973 6220



Members with Dependants (MWD)

There are approximately 390 Service residences in the Tindal/Katherine region. The majority of housing is situated in Katherine East and on RAAF Base Tindal. Most homes are low-set, however there are a number of high-set homes within the Katherine East area. All homes have carports (many are single carports).



All homes have a storage shed and are fully air-conditioned, with the addition of ceiling fans fitted throughout the homes.

A housing upgrade program is currently underway in Tindal, with many Defence homes being extensively renovated to include the installation of new kitchens, additional family rooms and en-suites.

Health

ADF Family Health Trial

The Australian Government is pleased to be supporting Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and their families through the ADF Family Health Trial.

The trial is scheduled to conclude on 30 June 2012; by this time the future direction of health care to ADF dependants will be known.

The ADF Family Health Trial is available to recognised ADF dependants residing in the following locations:

- **Western Australia** – Derby, Broome, Kununurra, Karratha, Port Hedland, Carnarvon, Tom Price, Newman and Exmouth.
- **Northern Territory** – Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Katherine and Alice Springs.

- **Queensland** – Cairns, Weipa, Mt Isa, Thursday Island, Tully and Townsville.
- **New South Wales** – Singleton.
- **Victoria** – Sale and Puckapunyal.

Medical

The ADF Family Health Trial provides reimbursement direct to your bank account for gap expenses when ADF dependants visit a general practitioner (GP).

Gap expenses are the difference between what the GP charges and what you get back from Medicare. For example, if your GP charges \$60 and the Medicare Rebate is \$35, we will give you \$25.

Eligible dependants are expected to pay the normal GP fee up-front, and claim the Medicare Rebate before submitting a manual claim to ADF Family Health for reimbursement.

Eligible dependants are able to visit any general practice of their choice—including when on holidays away from home.

Allied Health

ADF Family Health also provides \$330 per dependant, per calendar year, to use towards the following allied health services:

- Dental
- Physiotherapy
- Optical
- Chiropractic/
Osteopathy
- Dietician
- Speech Therapy
- Psychology
- Podiatry/Chiropody
- Audiology

Most claims can be processed electronically at the same time as the services by using the ADF Family Health card provided. In the event that electronic processing is not available, the dependant is expected to pay the account and claim the reimbursement manually.

Private Health Insurance

If you have private health insurance, the trial benefit can be used in addition to your private health benefit.

Nil Cost

This is a government-sponsored initiative. However, please be aware that the services accessed are considered a Fringe Benefit.

More Information

Internet: www.defence.gov.au/health/dependant_Healthcare/i-healthcare.htm

Contact

Email: Adf.dependanthealth@defence.gov.au or
Tel: (02) 6266 3547.

Katherine Hospital

The Katherine Hospital is located 3 km from the post office on Gorge Road, and consists of three well-equipped wards built in the late 1980s (obstetrics, medical/surgical and paediatrics) as well as casualty/outpatients and an operating theatre. The hospital accepts urban and rural patients and refers some cases to the Royal Darwin Hospital.

Specialists from Darwin and southern states visit regularly, including for surgery; gynaecology; paediatrics; ear, nose and throat; orthopaedics; medical; cardiology; and ophthalmology specialties.

The Accident and Emergency Department is staffed 24 hours a day. Between 10.30 am and 8.00 pm, there is a Medical Officer in attendance. Outside these hours, the Medical Officer is on call for acute illnesses and/or emergencies.

Patients are seen on the basis of clinical urgency, and therefore waiting times will vary depending on the situation within the department at any given time.

Dependant Specialist Medical Travel Allowance

One of the additional allowances associated with a posting to RAAF Base Tindal – due to its remote location – is the Dependant Specialist Medical Travel Allowance.

This allowance provides reimbursement of reasonable costs associated with travel, accommodation and meals incurred when dependants are required to travel outside Katherine for specialist medical appointments not available in Katherine. More information on this entitlement is available from the members' orderly room, and is detailed in PACMAN.

Dental and Medical Surgeries

Dental Surgery (Private)

Unit 4/17 First St, Katherine

For appointments

Tel: (08) 8972 1422

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday, 8.00 am to 5.00 pm

Doctor's Surgery – Kintore Clinic

First St (near O'Shea Tce)

Tel: (08) 8972 1677

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday, 8.00 am to 6.30 pm

Saturday, 8.30 am to 12.00 pm

After-hours doctor on call

Tel: (08) 8972 1677

Payment is required at the time of consultation. Bulk billing is not a standard practice.

Health Direct (24-hour health advice line)

Tel: 1800 022 222

Medicare

There is no Medicare office in Katherine. An online Medicare claim service is available at the Kintore Clinic Medical Centre, and a Medicare Ezy Claim Machine is located at the Government Centre, First St, Katherine, which is open Monday to Friday, 8.30 am to 4.30 pm. Alternatively, Kintore Clinic has the capacity to place your claims electronically after your visit to the doctor.

Health Centre Services

The Northern Territory Department of Health and Families is the main provider of health and disability services in the Northern Territory.

For information on Northern Territory Government Health Services, see Internet: www.nt.gov.au/health/topics.shtml.

This includes:

Community Health

The Community Health Centre is located in the Government Centre, First St.

Tel: (08) 8973 8570

Services provided by the Community Health Centre include:

- immunisation clinics
- maternal health services
- infant health services and clinics
- school medical screening
- domiciliary nursing
- Northern Territory hearing services
- oral hygiene (dental clinic)
- nutrition.

Also located in the Government Centre is Katherine Mental Health Services, which provides a comprehensive range of mental health services to the Katherine region.

Tel: (08) 8973 8722

Katherine Region Aged and Disability Service

The Aged and Disability Program works in partnership to enhance opportunities for people with disabilities; children with developmental concerns; people who are ageing; and their families and carers to contribute to and participate in the community.

The services provided include assessment, therapy, case management, respite, supported accommodation and care, community access, information and training, equipment and subsidies, and guardianship.

5 Kintore St, Katherine

Tel: (08) 8973 8778

healthdirect Australia

A free* 24-hour telephone health triage, information and advice service for residents of the ACT, NSW, the NT, Tasmania, SA and WA. *healthdirect* also incorporates *HealthInsite* which, for more than a decade, has been one of the most popular Australian websites for people seeking reliable information about health and wellbeing online. *HealthInsite* is accessible nationally. *healthdirect* is scheduled to be a fully national service by the end of 2011, and it's expected that when fully operational it will handle up to two million calls a year.

How can I access healthdirect Australia?

No matter where you are in the ACT, NSW, the NT, SA, Tasmania or WA, you can access *healthdirect* Australia through a single number – 1800 022 222. Callers with a speech or hearing impairment are able to use *healthdirect* through the National Relay Service on 1800 555 677. If you need an interpreter, call TIS National on 131 450.

For more information visit the website: www.healthdirect.org.au.

Other Support Services

Katherine has a number of support groups and services that you can access. Please note that due to the size of the township and its isolation, services are limited.

For more information on other support services and groups, please feel free to contact the Tindal DCO office.

Team Health
Tel: (08) 8971 3344

Family Planning Association of the Northern Territory
Tel (08) 8971 3153

Cancer Council Northern Territory – Katherine
Tel: (08) 8971 2022

Australian Breastfeeding Association
Tel: (08) 8972 1024

Good Beginnings Australia (parenting support)
Tel: (08) 8972 2800

Anglicare Northern Territory
Tel: (08) 8972 1571

Somerville Youth and Family Services
Tel: (08) 8971 1107

Vietnam Veteran Services
Tel: 1800 011 046

Catholic Care Northern Territory
Katherine Family Link
Tel: (08) 8971 0777

Carers Northern Territory Inc.
Tel: (08) 8971 2766

CRS Australia (disability employment and assessment services)
Tel: (08) 8973 0300

Relationships Australia
Tel: 1300 364 277

Autism Northern Territory (located in Darwin)
Tel: (08) 8948 4424

YMCA of Katherine Inc.
Tel: (08) 8972 2592

Katherine Women's Information and Legal Service Inc. (KWILS)
Tel: 1800 620 108

Living in the Tropics

Shifting to a tropical climate from the temperate climates down south can result in your body experiencing different stresses and conditions. You could take a few days or weeks to adapt to the hot, humid climate experienced in Katherine – particularly in the wet season. This acclimatisation period can depend on how much time you spend in a fully air-conditioned environment.

During your first few days, try not to overdo things, especially during the hottest part of the day. Make sure you get adequate rest – the heat is much easier to take if you are not run down or over-tired.

Be prepared to take a little extra care with your skin to avoid infections and repeated sunburn, which can increase your chances of skin cancer. Skin conditions such as prickly heat, which can be a problem during your first few months, are most common where perspiration accumulates. Stopping the perspiration from accumulating by taking some or all of the following measures can cure it: wear light, loose-fitting clothes of natural fibres such as cotton; take frequent cool baths or showers; use talcum powder regularly. Discuss with your chemist appropriate lotions to reduce itching. Expose the affected area to a little bit of sun each day.

Dehydration can be a problem in a hot climate, especially with young children. There is no doubt that in the tropics it is necessary to drink more fluids, and your sense of thirst is your best guide as to how much you need. Try to develop the habit of drinking non-alcoholic drinks (preferably water or tea) to satisfy thirst.

Sun Smart

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Currently, two out of every three Australians develop some form of skin cancer during their lifetime.

Ultraviolet radiation in the Northern Territory remains in a high to extreme category all year round – therefore, we have to be sun smart every day. The good news is that being sun smart is easy!

All you have to do is develop the habit of preparing yourself before you go out into the sun. You can do this by limiting your exposure to the sun, especially between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm, when the ultraviolet (UV) index is at its highest. Make use of shade and wear clothing that covers as much skin as possible, including a hat with a broad brim, and use a SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.

Pests and Insects

Green ants, cockroaches, sandflies and spiders are common in the Katherine/Tindal area.

A unique feature of tropical life is the presence of geckos (small lizards), which can be seen at night. Geckos are harmless creatures that make a distinctive clicking noise and hunt for insects.

Mosquitoes and sandflies make outdoor living difficult, especially in the wetter months.

The use of insect repellents, particularly for children, is considered a normal prelude to any outdoor activity.

Crocodiles

Signs are erected at access points to rivers, creeks, swamps and swimming holes throughout the Northern Territory where there is a danger of estuarine crocodiles. However, the absence of a warning sign does not mean that there are no crocodiles in the area. If in doubt, obtain local advice.

Cane Toads

The cane toad has a secretion on its skin that is poisonous. Young children and pets can become quite sick if they touch and then eat the secretion. It is essential to take precautions when there might be a cane toad in your yard. Where possible, do not handle cane toads as they respond to threat by turning side-on, so that their parotoid glands are directed towards the attacker. The venom usually oozes

out of the glands, but toads can squirt a fine spray for a short distance if they are handled roughly. The venom is absorbed through mucous membranes such as eyes, mouth and nose, and in humans can cause intense pain, temporary blindness and inflammation. Signs of poisoning in pets (particularly dogs) due to ingestion include profuse salivation, twitching, vomiting, shallow breathing and collapse of the hind limbs. In extreme cases, poisoning can result in death. When handling any frog or toad, protect the eyes, wear gloves and thoroughly wash hands before and after touching the animal. First aid treatment for adults and children includes irrigating (washing with a lot of water) the eyes, mouth and nose if they have been exposed to toad venom. Seek medical attention if symptoms persist. Where pets are concerned, it is advised that you seek medical attention through the local vet clinics. Measures can be taken to keep cane toads out of your yard by erecting a small mesh fence (approximately 50 cm high) around the bottom of the fence line, and by ensuring there are no pools of accumulated water around the home.

Snakes

Due to the dense scrub land surrounding Tindal/Katherine, there is a tendency of finding snakes close to residential areas. To protect your home from snakes, ensure that yards and gardens are well maintained by removing piles of leaves and lawn clippings, and keeping your yard clutter free. For snake removal, you can contact Reidy's Reptiles on Tel: 0407 934 252.

Flying Foxes

Sometimes called fruit bats, flying foxes differ from bats in the nature of their generally bigger body size and preference to roost in colonies in trees. Bats are usually smaller in body size and inhabit hollow trees and branches, with other bat species preferring to inhabit limestone caves and sinkholes.

Flying foxes take advantage of the good seasons in their environment that provide the best conditions for them to breed. Flying foxes travel widely and often visit trees on RAAF Base Tindal.

Flying foxes eat flower blossoms and tree seeds, which they spread and pollinate other trees with as they feed. As a result of their feeding, flying foxes regurgitate acidic indigestible seeds and fruits. These regurgitations, along with their droppings, should be removed as soon as possible from painted vehicle surfaces, as prolonged exposure to the acids can cause damage to paintwork.

Flying foxes are difficult to handle and only people previously vaccinated and trained in the care and rehabilitation of these animals should do so. Do not handle flying foxes either dead or alive. If you discover a sick or injured flying fox, contact the Parks and Wildlife Service on Tel: (08) 8973 8888 or the Wildlife Rescue Service on Tel: 0407 559 479.

If you are scratched or bitten by a flying fox, wash the wound thoroughly with soap under running water. Cover the wound and seek medical advice at your nearest hospital or clinic immediately.

Flying foxes are Protected Wildlife under Section 43 of the Territory Parks and Wildlife *Conservation Act Amendment Act 2005*. As such, deliberately aiming to injure or kill them is against the law.

Further information on flying foxes can be sought from Parks and Wildlife NT, Giles Street, Katherine, on the number provided above.

Defence Community Groups

Defence Special Needs Support Group (DSNSG)



The Defence Special Needs Support Group (DSNSG) is a national volunteer organisation established to provide support, information and assistance to Defence families who care for someone with a disability or special need. Membership is free. Services provided include local support groups, respite programs, posting plans, specialised support for adults with special needs, Computers 4 Kids, access to grants, national newsletter, social skill programs for children and much more. For more information, contact the National Office.

National Coordinator

Margaret Fisk

Tel: 1800 037 674

Email: national.coordinator@dsnsg.org.au

Internet: www.dsnsg.org.au

Defence Families of Australia (DFA)



Defence Families of Australia (DFA) has been representing the views of Defence families for 25 years. DFA is a voluntary group of energetic and dedicated Defence partners appointed by the Minister for Defence, Science and Personnel. DFA has the unique opportunity of having direct access to: the Minister and Chief of Defence Force; senior Defence leaders; and key organisations which are directly involved with the families of our Defence Force.

DFA's aim is to improve the quality of life for Defence families by providing a recognised forum for the views of the family, and by reporting, making recommendations and influencing policy that directly affects families. The DFA Executive attracts volunteers from all services and ranks, who are living the unique lifestyle which stems from living with a Defence member, ensuring a broad coverage of experiences and understanding of the Defence lifestyle. DFA recognises that families today are very diverse and the composition of the family unit results in different challenges.

Geographically, DFA volunteers are located all around Australia, representing families at a local, regional and a national level. National Delegates are situated in each state and it is preferable to have a Local Family Representative in each Defence location, unit and base. Quality feedback is reliant on good communication between the Executive and family members in each region. When issues are raised, they are taken to the appropriate stakeholder at a local level or, if necessary, raised to a national level.

DFA is currently consulting with Defence and stakeholders on a range of issues including:

- ensuring Deployment Support is appropriate and available to all families
- enhancing the Partner Education and Employment Program funding
- shifting the focus on mental health to the entire Defence family unit in order to adequately support the ADF member
- providing feedback to Toll on relocations administration procedures
- working with the ADF Financial Services Consumer Council to develop useful education on financial management for Defence families
- monitoring the introduction of the National Defence Families Identification Card.

Join DFA today free!

By joining DFA as a member, you are supporting its aim to represent the needs of all Defence families. Please take a few minutes to enter your details on the website www.dfa.org.au/user/register/.

When you become a DFA member you will receive quarterly eNewsletters and email alerts, and access to the DFA website which will provide you with access to a wealth of resources:

- My Home and My Calendar with local news and events in your posting location
- timely updates on information and changes affecting Defence families
- advice and tips from other partners in the areas of Moving, Absence from Home, Education, Health, Employment and Money
- an opportunity to provide Defence and Government with your feedback and suggestions for improvements in My Voice.

How can you be involved in DFA?

If you are interested in learning more about DFA or becoming a volunteer in your area, please contact your local National Delegate (details on the DFA website).

Visit www.dfa.org.au or call the DFA Infoline 1800 100 509.

Tindal Christmas Treat

'Merry Christmas', 'Happy New Year', 'Bon voyage friends', 'Welcome to Tindal' ... nothing says it as well as the RAAF Base Tindal Christmas Treat. It's one of the premier events of the Tindal social calendar, as families gather together to celebrate the end of the year and the blessed event that is Christmas. A lot of work goes into the planning of the treat by a very enthusiastic committee. The committee meets regularly to initiate a wide range of activities that children and parents alike can enjoy. The very best part of the Christmas Treat here in Tindal is the marvellous way that everybody gets in and has a go.

We are famous for the friendly atmosphere that pervades the whole event, right through from the planning to the wind-up morning tea. It is great fun. The Tindal Christmas Treat Committee welcomes your contributions, ideas and any assistance you wish to offer. Please support the Tindal Christmas Treat.

Other Community Groups

There are a number of other community groups in Tindal, including:

- Tindal Playgroup
- Tindal Tidal Waves Swim Club
- Tindal Guides
- Air Force Cadets
- *Tindal Community Times* (TCT).

For more information on the various community groups, please call the DCO office.

Volunteering

Defence community houses and groups play a vital role in providing a supportive network for Defence members and families, particularly those new to the area. They provide a place for new arrivals to meet with others, and assist with the building of new friendships and networks. However, our community houses and groups cannot do this successfully without the support and dedication of cherished and valued volunteers.

Being the transient lifestyle that the Australian Defence Force is, families come and go from the region, and with that so do volunteers. Being new to the area we invite you to get involved with your local Defence Community Groups.

Volunteering plays a critical and meaningful role within each community and can be very rewarding. Did you know that you can reap many benefits from volunteering? Benefits to gain from volunteering in your community include:

- meeting new people
- keeping your skills active
- giving back to the community
- developing and learning new skills
- gaining feelings of accomplishment
- building professional and social contacts
- improving interpersonal communication
- joining a creative, fun and flexible work environment.

So please make contact with your local Defence Community Groups and get involved. They will appreciate your time and support, even if it's just for a few hours a week.

DCO Support Activities

To help you settle into your new environment, you can come along to the many DCO support activities. They are a great way to get out and meet others, and share information. Our support activities include family fun days, information sessions, morning teas and deployment support functions. Support functions are advertised in the *Tindal Community Times* (TCT) and via the DCO Tindal Community Email Database.

Local Community

The Town of Katherine

Katherine is located above the Tropic of Capricorn in the Top End of the Northern Territory. Darwin is the closest large centre and is about a three-hour drive along the fully sealed Stuart Hwy. Between Katherine and Darwin are several small towns, including Pine Creek and Adelaide River. To the south of Katherine along the Stuart Hwy are Mataranka (109 km), Tennant Creek (664 km) and Alice Springs (1,170 km). The Victoria Hwy runs west from Katherine to Kununurra in Western Australia (476 km). These highways are fully sealed but, because of the distances involved, long car trips in the Territory do require some planning.

The town of Katherine is situated on the beautiful Katherine River and is often called the 'Crossroads of the North', as it is located on the junction of the Stuart Hwy – linking the north and the south – and the Victoria Hwy to Western Australia.



Shopping in Katherine

Katherine is a relatively small town, but it services a huge rural area – from the Gulf country to the east, to the west towards Kununurra. There are three major banks in town and the Government Centre offers access to all mainstream services.

The Katherine Central Shopping Centre and the Katherine Terrace shopping precinct include a wide variety of retailers.

The Katherine Tourist Association is more than happy to offer tourism advice to longer term residents, so make sure you visit the Information Centre as soon as you've settled in.

Climate

Katherine has an inland tropical climate that is characterised by two distinct seasons: the wet season, which is from 1 October to 30 April inclusive, and the dry season, which covers the remainder of the year.

The strongest influence on the wet season is the monsoon, which is quite variable over the northern Australian region; however, it is rare for the monsoon trough not to move over the Top End at least once per season. The wet is characterised by generally hot and humid conditions, and periods of heavy rains and thunderstorms. October and November are generally the most oppressive times of the year, with the maximum temperature exceeding 35 °C on about 28 days in each month. There is, however, a gradual decrease in the number of days exceeding 35 °C in December, to less than 15 days in February and March. About 83 per cent of the annual rainfall falls during December, January, February and March, with the thickening clouds and periods of rain providing relief from the extremes of temperature. Winds are generally light and variable, tending north-westerly when the monsoon trough moves south of the region.

The dry season extends from May to September and is characterised by mild to warm, and generally dry, cloudless conditions, with the south-easterly winds prevailing

for most of this period. During May – the first of the dry season months – clear, dry, sunny days increase, with the number of days exceeding 35 °C falling to only one. The south-easterly winds reach moderate strength more often, starting from this month. Minimum temperatures during the middle months of June, July and August generally fall to near or below 15 °C, with humidity in the general range between 25 per cent and 30 per cent at 3.00 pm. Maximum temperatures still exceed 30 °C on about 65 per cent of days in the middle of the dry, but it is rare for temperatures to exceed 35 °C.

Katherine's climate is one of the biggest differences people from down south will experience. In general terms, Katherine's climate is hot, and may bring with it a level of personal discomfort during the build-up to the wet season, when high temperatures and high humidity are experienced. During most of the dry season, however, Katherine's climate is extremely pleasant.

Interesting Websites

For more information on what the Katherine region has to offer, check out these websites:

Katherine Town Council
Internet: www.ktc.nt.gov.au

Katherine Region Tourist Association
Internet: www.krta.com.au

Northern Territory Government
Internet: www.nt.gov.au

Tourism NT
Internet: www.tourismnt.com.au

The Territory
Internet: www.theterritory.com.au

Katherine Start Page
Internet: www.webpage-nt.com

General Services

Banking

Most major banking institutions and ATMs are available in Katherine and Tindal.

■ Katherine

Commonwealth Bank

Tel: 13 22 31

ANZ Bank

Tel: 13 13 14

Westpac Bank

Tel: 13 20 32

Bendigo Bank

Tel: (08) 8972 1784

■ Tindal

Defcredit

Tel: (08) 8973 6336

ATM located at Frontline

The post office is also an agent for the Commonwealth Bank.

Electoral Information

It is a requirement of the law to ensure that you inform the Australian Electoral Commission of your change of address. You can do this by completing an Electoral Enrolment Form and returning it in the supplied free-post envelope. Forms are available from DCO or at the Katherine and Tindal post offices.

Centrelink

There is a Centrelink office located in Second St, Katherine.

Tel: 1800 050 004

Churches

There are many churches in Katherine that provide services for all religious denominations. Refer to 'Churches' in your local Yellow Pages directory or visit www.yellowpages.com.au to find locations and details.

Public Library Service

■ Katherine Public Library

Randazzo Centre, Katherine Tce, Katherine

Tel: (08) 8971 1188

Internet: www.ktc.nt.gov.au/library

■ Katherine Toy Library

28 First St, Katherine

Tel: (08) 8971 2300

Television Stations

Both free-to-air digital and analogue television is available in Katherine.

Austar is also available, should you wish to be connected. Most service residences are equipped with the appropriate fixtures to have Austar connected. For service residences without the appropriate fixtures, the member is required to apply for Austar connection through Defence Housing Australia (DHA), giving permission to have fixtures placed within the service residence.

Tel: (08) 8972 8000

Media/Press

■ **Tindal Community Times (TCT)**

Run by volunteers, this monthly publication keeps you informed of all upcoming events in Tindal and Katherine.

■ **Katherine Times**

Local Katherine paper issued each Wednesday.

■ **NT News**

Northern Territory paper available daily.

■ **Interstate Newspapers**

You can also arrange to receive interstate papers through the local Katherine newsagency, Top End News.

Tel: (08) 8971 1203

Radio Stations

While living in the Top End, you can tune in to a number of radio stations:

Katherine FM Community Radio – 101.3FM

Triple J – 88.5FM

CAARMA 8KINFM – 104.5FM

Hot 100 – 106.9FM

ABC NT Radio – 106.1FM

TAB Radio – 103.7FM

ABC News – 105.3FM

Motoring Organisations

Automobile Association of the Northern Territory (AANT)

There is no AANT office located in Katherine, however for AANT assistance contact:

Tel: (08) 8981 3837

Internet: www.aant.com.au

Essential Services

Electricity

For connection, please call Tel: 1800 245 090 or apply over the counter at Power and Water Corporation, located in the Government Centre, Katherine.

Telephone and Internet Connection

Connection can be made by calling Telstra.

Tel: 13 22 00

Both dial-up and broadband internet connection are available in Tindal and Katherine.

Mobile Phone Coverage

It has been noted that the best mobile phone reception is received by mobile phones with Telstra coverage. Mobile phones that have plans with Vodafone and Optus will experience difficulty receiving reception in Tindal, however they will have reception in the Katherine township.

Reception coverage for all mobile phones is sporadic along the main highways, with most phones being able to pick up reception near townships. It has been noted that mobile phones with the new Next G coverage receive better reception along these roads, however they can still experience reception drop-out from time to time.

It is recommended that you contact your current provider to ascertain your service availability before you arrive in the Top End.

Garbage Collection

Monday: Tindal area

Tuesday: Katherine North, Florina Rd and Victoria Hwy

Wednesday: Katherine South, Zimmin Dr, and north side of the Stuart Hwy

Thursday: Katherine East

Friday: Byers Rd, south side of the Stuart Hwy

Waste Management Station

Victoria Hwy

Tel: (08) 8971 2014

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday, 7.30 am to 5.30 pm

Weekends and public holidays,
8.00 am to 4.00 pm

Transport

Defence Driving Licence Scheme

The Defence Driving Licence Scheme (DDLs) for ADF personnel and eligible members of their families does not apply in the Northern Territory. This means that you must obtain a Northern Territory driver's licence.

Vehicle/Boat Registration and Driver's Licences

It is a legal requirement that all new Northern Territory residents transfer their vehicle registration within three months of arriving. Failure to do so deems your vehicle unregistered.

In the Northern Territory, a private pleasure craft doesn't require registration, however boat trailers are required to be registered. For more information, please call the Motor Vehicle Registry.

Tel: 1300 654 628

Bicycles, Bike Helmets and Bike Paths

There are a number of bike paths located around Katherine and Tindal. One of the more popular is the path that runs from Katherine to Tindal, which is used frequently by Defence members who choose to cycle to work.

It is compulsory to wear a bike helmet at all times, except for people over the age of 18 if they are riding along designated bike paths. However, when crossing roads, you are required to dismount your bike and walk across the road.

Coaches/Buses

Apart from the school bus, which runs each morning and afternoon, there is currently no regular bus service provided between Katherine and Tindal. There is also no bus service in Katherine. Coach travel is available to travel out of the Katherine region.

Taxi Services

Taxis are available, and can be contacted on Tel: (08) 8972 1777.

Airport

Katherine Airport is located between Katherine and Tindal, however, there are no domestic air services out of Katherine.

Railway Services

The Ghan is the only passenger train that is available in Katherine. It passes through Katherine on a regular basis and bookings can be made through local travel agents.

Pet Care

A number of veterinary surgeries operate in the Katherine area. For more details, check the Yellow Pages.

Internet: www.yellowpages.com.au

Pet Relocation Allowance

Once a removal has been approved, a member is entitled to a reimbursement of reasonable costs associated with the relocation of their pets. Receipts should be presented to DHA for processing. For more information, please call DHA on Tel: 1800 249 711.

Dog Registration

It is a requirement to ensure that your dog(s) are registered with the Katherine Town Council each year. Registration fees are to be paid annually in July. For more information, phone the council.

Tel: (08) 8972 5500

Kennels and Catteries

There are also a number of kennels and catteries located in Darwin. Please call the Family Liaison Officer for more information.

Pet and Animal Transport Services

■ Dogtainers

Dogtainers has proven to be a popular pet transport provider to the Katherine region.

Humpty Doo, NT

Tel: 1300 135 252

Internet: www.dogtainers.com.au

■ Petflyers

Tel: 1800 738 359

Internet: www.petflyers.com.au

Emergency Information

Severe Storms and Flooding

With the wet season comes the threat of possible severe storms and flooding. After severe flooding occurred in 1998, Katherine Emergency Services put together a Flood and Emergency Information Pack that details how you should prepare for such emergencies.

You can pick up a Flood and Emergency Information Pack from the Emergency Service Complex on Stuart Hwy, Katherine East, or from DCO Tindal.

Important Numbers

Tindal

Switch

Tel: (08) 8973 7111

Base Command Post

Tel: (08) 8973 6888

Defence Community Organisation Reception

Tel: (08) 8973 7134

Chaplain – Roman Catholic

Tel: (08) 8973 6032

Chaplain – Protestant

Tel: (08) 8973 6033

Defence Housing Australia (DHA) Reception

Tel: (08) 8972 8000

DHA After-hours Emergencies

Tel: 1300 366 615

DHA Customer Service Line

Tel: 1800 249 711

Toll Transitions – Darwin Office

Tel: (08) 8947 2566

Toll Customer Service Line

Tel: 1800 819 167

Katherine

Police, Fire and Emergency Complex

Tel: (08) 8973 8000

Ambulance (administration only)

Tel: (08) 8973 8555

Hospital

Tel: (08) 8972 9211

Kintore Clinic – Doctor's Surgery

Tel: (08) 8972 1677

Notes



Australian Government

Department of Defence