

defence

FAMILY

MATTERS

September 2001

Our Mission - To provide Defence Families with real information about the real Defence environment

NCGSF meets with the PM



The National Consultative Group of Service Families recently held their annual conference in Canberra and, as part of the International Year of the Volunteer, they were recognised for their efforts in assisting Defence families in a meeting with the Prime Minister, the HON John Howard.



The Prime Minister, the HON John Howard with NCGSF delegates

The NCGSF Conference raises the issues that Defence families feel are important. In the weeks leading up to the Conference, the delegates hold meetings in their areas and talk to families about what is concerning them. This year, the NCGSF was asked by families to talk to Defence about a wide range of concerns. Air conditioning, spouse employment, childcare and timely welcome packs were amongst these issues.

During the Conference, NCGSF delegates met with members of Government, such as Minister Scott and various Defence officials, to discuss these issues raised by Defence families and they are very excited about progress made in resolving the highlighted concerns.

The NCGSF will be working with DHA and DCO to improve the relocation process and establish consistent welcome information. The NCGSF will be focussing on spouse employment and hope that there will soon be major improvements to the spouse employment programs that will assist spouses with employment in gaining localities.

NCGSF delegates were also shown a preview of the new DHA Homefind service and were very pleased that the NCGSF suggestions were incorporated in the program so that this service is totally user-friendly.

The conference ended with a formal dinner at Duntroon House attended by their patron, Julia Anderson, her husband and Deputy Prime Minister, the HON John Anderson, and dignitaries including the HON Bruce Scott, Admiral Chris Barrie, Chief of the Defence Force, and Rear Admiral Russ Shalders, Head Defence Personnel Executive.

The 2001 Conference was highly successful and very productive. The NCGSF wishes to thank all of the families across Australia who raised issues from their areas.

The NCGSF Convenor, Judy Swann, would also like to thank Minister Scott, CDF, HDPE and Senior Managers of DHA, Toll and DCO for your continuing support of the NCGSF and recognition of us as the official voice of Defence families.



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Welcome to RADM Shalders

RADM Russ Shalders, new Head, Defence Personnel Executive

International Year of the Volunteer—Celebrating Volunteers in the Defence Organisation

The August edition of *defence FAMILY MATTERS* asked for nominations to recognise those Defence personnel, and their families, that volunteer to assist others, such as bush firefighters, surf lifesavers, sports coaches, meals-on-wheels deliverers, blood donors, and a whole lot more.

Please continue to send in nominations and help give recognition to those that sacrifice their time to help their community. If you would like to nominate a volunteer for recognition, please contact Jenny Deal at Defence Community Organisation Headquarters.

Remember, while a volunteer does not help others solely for thanks, when it is offered it truly is appreciated.

Contact: Jenny Deal
 Fax: 02 6266 4440
 Email: Jennifer.Deal@cbr.defence.gov.au
 Address: CP2-4-157
 Campbell Park
 Canberra ACT 2600



Community House Spotlight

Don't forget, if you are a coordinator for a Defence community or neighbourhood house, or a member of one, make sure your house has sent contact and activity information to Diane Temperley for the upcoming special edition of *defence FAMILY MATTERS*. See back page for contact details.



A Very Special Volunteer

defence *FAMILY MATTERS* would like to introduce a very special member of the defence community to you, Angela Gardiner.

Angela is married to Able Seaman Bosun's Mate Damien Gardiner who is currently posted to Cairns in North Queensland. Angela, twenty-seven, has three children under nine, the first child born when she was only eighteen herself.

Angela's story will be very familiar to many of us, and may cause a few pangs as we remember finding ourselves in similar circumstances. What makes Angela's story different however, are the steps she has taken, not only make a positive difference to her own life, but to the lives of others in both the local Defence and school communities through her tireless volunteering.

Angela first came to the attention of the Cairns Defence Community Organisation after arriving from Sydney last year. With her husband away at sea for many months on the HMAS BRUNEI, Angela made the move from Sydney to Cairns on her own with the children.

Settling into Cairns was not an easy process for this young family. They were housed in a residential area, with limited public transport. Angela did not drive, which compounded problems so often encountered when posting to a new locality,

such as loneliness and being away from the family support and advice, much needed with three young children. During this time, one of her children was diagnosed with ADD, and while it was a relief to have a diagnosis for the problem, it was now yet another element to be coped with.

Feeling the need for company, Angela joined the playgroup at the Defence Recreation and Family Centre. For Angela, this was the turning point, even though it took her over two hours and two bus

rides to get there. With the support and guidance of DCO Cairns, she decided to make some substantial changes to her life. Angela got her driver's licence in just under two months, greatly increasing her mobility, opening up a different world for her. She took every opportunity offered by DCO, completing courses in computer training, committee training and treasurer training. Even though Angela had never been in paid employment, she volunteered for the coordinator's role for the playgroup and after completing the DCO training courses, she was appointed Secretary for the community centre. And while Angela was quite apprehensive about whether or not she could do the job, DCO were confident in her abilities and training, and supported her throughout.



Above: Angela Gardiner

Sure enough Angela excelled in the role, and later assumed the position of Vice President. At the time of writing, she is also the acting President, while the President is on maternity leave. But Angela goes far beyond her executive positions. She is the helper at the fundraisers, the ticket seller, the decorator, the food organiser and she has done all of this without fuss or seeking recognition. Those that know her call her an unsung heroine and a quiet achiever.

In addition to volunteering to the Defence community centre, Angela also volunteers her time to the Defence Special Needs Support Group, is the Secretary of the local pre-school and is waiting to begin training to become a volunteer for the support-a-reader program at school.

Angela, we take our hats off to you. You are an inspiration to us all, and we thank you for your tireless volunteering.

Those that know her call her an unsung heroine and a quiet achiever.

She is the helper at the fundraisers, the ticket seller, the decorator, the food organiser...



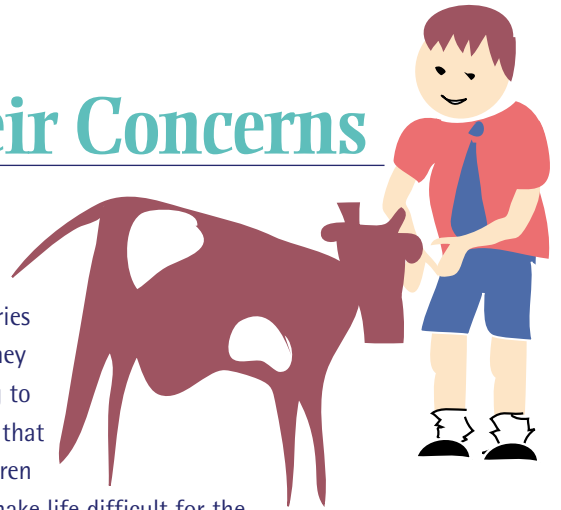
Helping Rural Kids with their Concerns

Do you know a child who is constantly...

- afraid of trying anything new?
- scared when you aren't with them?
- worried that they will make a mistake?
- avoiding things like sleep-overs, school, parties or unfamiliar situations?
- able to worry about anything and everything?



Fears in childhood are common, and for most a part of growing up. However for about one in ten children fears and worries become much bigger and scarier than they should be. This means they stop wanting to try new things and even avoid activities that other kids their age seem to enjoy. Children who are affected badly by anxiety can make life difficult for the whole family. Often Mum's and Dad's just don't know what to do too make their child feel safer and worry less.



Common sorts of problems that parents may see include children who find going to school frightening because they're scared to leave mum and dad, or because they worry what the other kids think of them. Some kids don't go to sleepovers because they're afraid to sleep in the dark and don't want to be embarrassed in front of their friends. Others just seem to worry about everything and will lie awake at night worrying about what happened today and what will happen tomorrow. Many lack social confidence and spend their lunch times on their own, or hiding in the school library to avoid their peers. Children who experience serious difficulty managing anxiety at a young age at a higher risk of later developing depression, debilitating anxiety, drug and alcohol abuse.

Families living in Sydney have been able to access help for the last eight years by attending the Child and Adolescent Anxiety Clinic at Macquarie University. Now this help is being made available to all primary school children in rural and remote Australia through an innovative new program that brings help into the home.

After recognising a large gap in services for children, the clinic has developed a self-help program called the Clinic Outreach Program for Anxious Kids (COPA-K). The program provides assessments for families over the phone, and then if they can help, parents receive child and parent workbooks to guide them through the same program as is offered in Sydney. Families also have the opportunity to have regular contact with one of the therapists at the clinic, who can help them to apply the program specifically to their child's fears and worries.

Macquarie University received funding from the Financial Markets Foundation For Children, to evaluate the impact that COPA-K has on anxiety. Indications are that this new program is very effective in assisting children to face their fears and worry less.

Parents who suspect that their primary school child might benefit from the program are invited to contact the COPA-K staff or visit our website at

www.psy.mq.edu.au/muaru/

Contact: CPOA-K Staff
Phone: 02 9850 7941
Email: copak@psy.mq.edu.au



Redlo News

Education assistance

At this time of year, one of the allowances frequently accessed by Defence families is reimbursement for the cost of extra tuition to bring the child's academic achievement up to the standard achieved in their former school.

This allowance is payable to you for each child who is identified as suffering academic disadvantage due to changing schools as a result of a member's posting.

Certification by your child's current school principal is one of the requirements to access the tuition allowance. For further information on any educational matter or to access an application form for tuition costs, contact the REDLO in your State or Territory. Unit orderly rooms will also be provided with application forms for the tuition component of Education Assistance.

Special Needs

Upon giving presentations and talking to Defence members and their spouses, I still find there are many who are unaware of the DI (G) PERS 42-5 regarding support to Defence families with special needs. This assistance is reliant upon the following:

- Recognition as a member with Family With Special Needs (FWSN)
- Associated with a posting

For further information, please contact any DCO office.

Update on Mobility Research Project

The joint research project, 'The Effects of Student Mobility on Education Outcomes', being conducted by KPMG on behalf of Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs and Defence has begun.

This project has been organised in stages and part of stage one has now been completed.

Stage one consisted of a review of national and international research projects that have investigated the impact student mobility has on student learning outcomes, with a particular emphasis given to the mobility of families within the Defence Force. The results from this review will assist researchers with the design and structure of the survey form.

During this stage of the project, stakeholder interviews will be conducted and focus group

discussions held in a number of States and Territories.

Local schools will assist in contacting ADF families, and will be selected randomly. So if you hear that your school will be involved and you'd like to participate, please let the principal know that you are interested in this project.

Further updates will be provided in the next *defence FAMILY MATTERS*.

Contact: Joan Gilbert, Manager
 Education Policy and Special Needs
 Phone: 02 6266 4427
 Email: joan.gilbert@cbr.defence.gov.au

EDUCATION





Interview with General Manager, Helen Newell of Toll Transitions

Removals Australia, previously a government operation, was acquired by Toll Holdings in January last year. Removals Australia has since merged with two other companies, International Corporate Relocations and Movinghome.com.au to form a new company in the Toll Holding's group, called Toll Transitions.

Toll Transitions are the service providers of relocation services, on behalf of the Defence Housing Authority.

Attending the Canberra launch of this new company, *Defence FAMILY MATTERS* asked Helen Newell, General Manager, about the merger and what effects it might have on Defence Families.

How many people now work for the combined company?

About 120, located in 11 offices around Australia. We also have affiliates in 106 offices globally to provide services there.

I understand that up to 80 per cent of staff elected to remain when Removals Australia was bought by Toll. Why do you think so many decided to stay?

Actually, over 90 per cent. Most stayed because Toll offered staff an opportunity to grow professionally and personally. By broadening the basis of the business, both in services and locations, we can provide employees with opportunities to learn new skills and take on more challenging roles.

What are the overall benefits of the merger?

Transitions is truly greater than the sum of the parts. Large companies and agencies today are looking for a single point of accountability across a total range of solutions. Transitions can meet the total relocations needs of any company, no matter how small or large their requirement. We pride ourselves on working with our clients to understand their desired outcomes and deliver them.

What are the benefits for Defence personnel?

Defence personnel can now access services outside their entitlements, and feel confident that the total service will be case managed, through one point of contact. More of our staff will be available to meet with Defence personnel to discuss any relocation issue they may have. We offer services to clients in the areas of School Search and area orientation that we would be delighted to offer Defence personnel to improve the effectiveness of their relocation.

What experience do you bring to the company?

I have worked in the Logistics field for over 10 years in various consulting and industry roles. I have also worked with Defence for the last two years. As such I have an understanding of the industry

as well as the customer base. Just as importantly, I have relocated over seven times in my life, three times internationally, and most recently with two children under three. This has certainly given me a first hand experience of the stress and complexity of managing a relocation for a family.

Will Removals Australia carry out operations under their own banner?

No, over the next few months, we will transform from the Removals Australia name to the Toll Transitions name.

What was the concept behind Toll Transition's branding?

Transitions represents the wholistic approach we take to managing the total relocation, including the emotional and personal components as well as the physical movement of the goods. Removals and relocations are quite narrow terms, what we do is a lot broader than that. We have included the Toll name to reinforce the financial strength and stability, as well as operational logistics experience, that the Toll Group brings to our capability.

Will Defence personnel be able to access services offered by the International Corporate Relocations and Movinghome.Com? If not yet, how or when?

Yes, Defence personnel can access these services. Movinghome services can be accessed today through a link in the Toll Transitions web site at www.tolltransitions.com.au.

Toll Transitions is keen to offer the services previously offered by ICR. These services are not currently covered in the Defence service agreement, so individual Defence families would have to pay for these services directly.

Will Toll Transitions offer a one-stop-shop web service, representing all three elements of the company?

Toll Transitions has already combined the web front ends of the three elements of our business, under the above website. We are currently undergoing some fairly major developments in that areas to streamline the site and broaden the offerings available directly through the web.

What are Toll Transitions' future plans?

Toll Transitions has aggressive growth plans. We aim to: broaden the service offerings we manage on behalf of our clients; expand our geographical coverage, initially into Asia; broaden our client base; and extend the services offered to our existing client base. We also committed to developing stronger systems to support this growth operationally, and to support our clients in the information we can provide to them.



National Consultative Group of Service Families

Are you moving?

It's that time of the year again when posting orders have come out and we are all on the move. So we thought it was a good opportunity this edition to talk about the changes that have happened to removals this year.

DHA (Defence Housing Authority) will now be organising your removal. They will get your information from Defence postings and contact you to organise your dates for pre pack and uplift, your allowances, your accommodation etc.

They have also been working on Home Find, which means you will be able to choose a house over the Internet. This is not compulsory so you can still choose a house when you arrive in your new destination, or on a house hunting trip. But we feel many families will find it very useful.

Inventories online

The other great thing about moving now is the availability to do your inventory online through Removals Australia, which is now part of Toll Transitions. The website is listed below.

www.removalsaustralia.com.au/default3.html

You can input your inventory and submit it with your dates. It is very easy to use and will save a lot of time filling in paperwork. The other advantage is you only need to do it once as next time you move all you have to do is call up your previous inventory and amend any details. This is a great innovation and will benefit all Defence families when moving.

If you have any queries about this service call 1800 819 167.

What about schools, childcare and employment opportunities?

Please check out DCO's new website as soon as you know you are moving. It has excellent information about your new area such as schools, employment, childcare, facilities etc. You can find this information



Above: NCGSF Delegates and their families outside Parliament House after meeting with the Prime Minister

at the below web address. For those families without Internet access, contact your local DCO office to find out where a DCO community computer, available for all Defence families to use, closest to you.

See the DCO website at www.dco.dod.gov.au

Regional Education Liaison Officers

Regional Education Liaison Officers (REDLO's) can answer any education questions you have and can provide assistance and advice with moving your children between schools. Simply call your local DCO office to find your REDLO's contact details or visit the DCO website.

Questions about removals in general?

Call DHA on 1800 249 711 if you have any questions about your removal.

The role of NCGSF and how to contact us

Since 1986, NCGSF have been working to improve the quality of life for ADF families by providing a recognised forum for your views, reporting, making recommendations and influencing policy making that directly affects families. If you have any questions about what we do, or about a particular Defence policy issue, please contact one of our representatives. You can get our contact details from the below website or from your local DCO office.

www.defence.gov.au/dpe/ngcsf

Good luck with your move!

Vacancy

The position of NCGSF National Delegate in South Australia will become vacant in December 2001. This voluntary position must be filled by a spouse of a full-time serving member residing in South Australia. The Delegate's duties are varied and interesting, especially as the Delegate is the Minister's official Defence family representative in that region.

If you are currently living in that region or are posting there at the end of the year, please call Kerrie Anderson on 08 8520 3479 or Judy Swann on 1800 100 509





Participate and Win!

This year, if you take part in the relocation survey, you will be sent an entry form to go into the draw to win a gift voucher from Frontline Defence Services worth \$100.

Frontline Defence Services is a competitive service provider for ADF members and their families. It sells a wide range of goods from mobile phones to big-screen television sets. One \$100 voucher will be drawn for every 500 surveys that are returned to DHA. We also provide a reply-paid envelope so you can send back your survey and entry form.

So, as well as helping DHA to serve you better, you may be lucky enough to win one of the Frontline gift vouchers too. Keep an eye on Defence Housing News to see the results of the relocation survey and the names of raffle prize winners.

DHA Surveys Improve Housing and Services for Defence Families

The Defence Housing Authority (DHA) makes every effort to improve services to families and to respond to the issues you raise. DHA surveys help us to understand your concerns and to take action to fix problems you identify.

Once a year, a tenant satisfaction survey is sent out to a random selection of families living in DHA housing. It asks what you do or don't like about your home and its location, your experiences in dealing with DHA staff, and what you think about how we handle your complaints.

The relocation questionnaire is sent to those families who move house. It is a new survey, which we began sending out in July this year when DHA started providing relocation services to Defence families. It asks you about your experiences moving from one posting to another, or to a new house in the same area. The relocation survey is made up of three sections

- moving out of your DHA home and the removals process
- getting to your new location
- and moving in to your new DHA home

If you rent a privately owned house, rather than a DHA property, you may also get a Rent Allowance survey asking you about the advantages and disadvantages of private renting.

Finally, each week DHA sends surveys to some of the families who have had maintenance or emergency maintenance work done on their home.

So, if you move house and have maintenance work or emergency maintenance carried out on your home, you may receive up to three surveys.

Why surveys are important

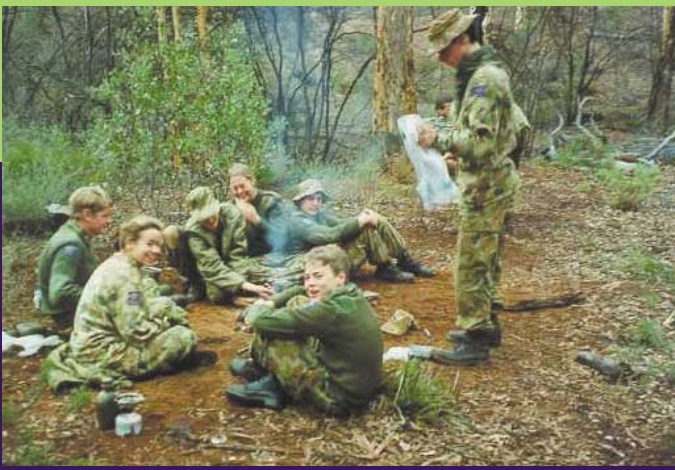
DHA's research department, who send out the surveys, want Defence families to know how valuable their feedback is, as it is the best way to find out what families want. As a result, all surveys are taken very seriously by DHA.

Just some of the benefits from surveys conducted so far include improved service and complaints handling through the National Service and Support Centre, better cleaning standards and smoother procedures for moving in and out of DHA housing, HomeFind and the upcoming DHA website, and the building of extra service residences in Canberra and Darwin.

Contact: Defence Housing Authority
Phone: 1800 249 711
Email: query@dha.gov.au
Website: www.dha.gov.au

DHA surveys help us to understand your concerns and to take action to fix problems you identify.





CADETS The Place to Be

The last edition of *Defence FAMILY MATTERS* highlighted the boost the Government is giving to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Cadets, comprising of the individual Navy, Army and Air Force Cadet schemes that make up the ADF Cadets youth development program.

ADF Cadets units can be found across Australia in over 430 locations. About one quarter of the units are located on Defence establishments, another quarter in schools, and the rest in community locations.

The ADF Cadets share the same goals, aims and many of the types of activities and training of other youth development organisations and currently more than 25,000 young people and over 2,200 adult volunteers participate.

However, the one fundamental thing that sets the ADF Cadets apart from other youth programs is that the youth and adults who participate want to undertake their activities in a military setting.

Cadets want to wear the uniform of their sponsoring Service, want to march and take part in ceremonial and commemorative activities and want to experience various aspects of military life. Parents also expect their children as Cadets to experience the spectrum of military-like activities and that it is conducted in a responsible way.

The types of adventurous activities cadets undertake vary between the Navy, Army and Air Force Cadets.

Navy Cadets: adventurous training - sailing and seamanship - naval navigation - visits to naval establishments and ships - naval tradition and history - signals and communications - parade training - canoeing - weekend camps - abseiling - first aid - leadership.



Army Cadets: adventurous training - Army history - drill and parade training - field craft - field engineering - survival - first aid - abseiling - navigation - signals and communications - leadership - canoeing - weekend camps - parachuting and gliding - visits to military establishments.

Air Force Cadets: adventurous training - RAAF history and tradition - parade and ceremonial training - leadership - parachuting - powered aircraft and gliders - field craft - abseiling - rock climbing - canoeing - weekend camps - visits to air bases and aircraft.

For children of Defence Families, the ADF Cadets offer a great continuity for those who participate. No matter where you are posted in Australia, you can probably find a Cadet unit nearby.

To find out more about the Cadets experience and locate your nearest Cadet unit, visit one of these websites:

Australian Navy Cadets:

www.anc.adfc.gov.au

Australian Army Cadets:

www.defence.gov.au/army/cadets/

Australian Air Force Cadets:

www.aafc.adfc.gov.au

To learn about the ADF Cadets enhancement program, visit:

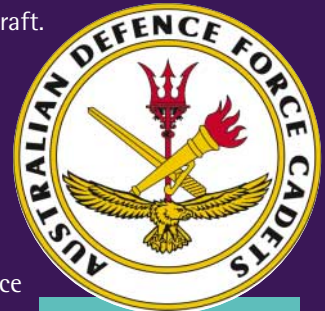
www.defence.gov.au/cadets/

For those families without Internet access, contact your local DCO office to find out the where a DCO community computer, available for all Defence families to use, is closest to you.

Contact: Wing Commander John Anderson

Phone: 02 6265 3493

Email: john.anderson@cbr.defence.gov.au



Adventurous activities cadets undertake vary between the Navy, Army and Air Force Cadets.

Military-like activities conducted in a responsible way!





DPE Familiarisation Trip to the Northern Territory

Civilian representatives from across the Defence Personnel Executive recently spent three days in the Northern Territory to gain a better understanding of the ADF's role in the defence of Australia. Sites visited included RAAF Tindal, HQNORCOM, Darwin Naval Base, Headquarters 1st Brigade and RAAF Darwin.

Staff travelled by a C130J Hercules, staying at RAAF Tindal before going on to visit other Defence establishments in Darwin. Service personnel briefed DPE staff on their role in defending the North, while also taking the opportunity to ask questions about personnel policy and administration.

It is very important for Defence civilians, especially those ensconced in Canberra, to understand what it is that the Military does, and the effects on Serving members and their families living in remote localities. It also assists staff responsible for personnel administration and entitlements to better understand the effects policy has on those living three thousand kilometres away in our North.

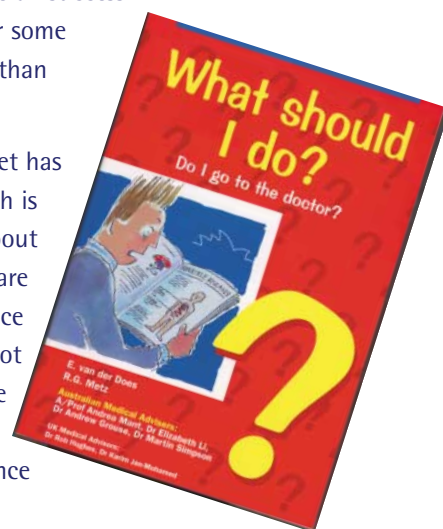
What should I do? What do you think?

In July 2001, Head of Defence Personnel Executive launched the *What should I do?* booklet, a self-help guide to the management of minor illnesses, which has been sent to all members of Defence, both regular and active reserve members of the ADF and Defence civilians.

Towards the end of September or early October, the Directorate of Preventive Health (DPH) within the Defence Health Service Branch will be evaluating the impact of this booklet. This will involve a mailed survey to a random sample of Defence members. The same questionnaire will be given to ADF members attending one of six designated medical centres throughout Australia on a particular day. Participation in this survey will, of course, be entirely voluntary and anonymous. No one individual will be able to be identified from the answers given.

The importance of this survey, though, cannot be over emphasised. While the Defence Health Service Branch has already had a good deal of informal feedback, a formal survey is the only way of knowing how the Defence organisation feels as a whole. This information will help DPH to plan future health promotion projects and aim these at the people that are most likely to find benefit from them. It also lets DPH provide feedback to the Defence community regarding the overall success of this initiative and whether some groups found it more useful than others.

The distribution of the booklet has met with some hiccups, which is not surprising considering about 95,000 copies have been, or are being, sent out. If the Defence member in your family has not yet received their copy of the booklet, please contact the Task Manager's Desk at Defence Publishing (see below).



Contact: Task Manager, Defence Publishing
 Phone: 03 9256 4642
 email: dpstasking@raaf.defence.gov.au

Defence Overseas Study Scholarship Winner

AFS Intercultural Programs Australia has just awarded the most recent scholarship to the son of a Defence employee. At a ceremony in Canberra on July 31, Director General Defence Community Organisation Lindsay Kranz presented Tom Kerr with the final of four AFS Scholarships awarded each year to sons or daughters of a Defence employees, with a certificate which will take Tom to Rome for 12 months from September.

Defence has belonged to the scheme for the past two years and is one of 40 organisations that, in partnership with AFS, offer 80 full scholarships to Australian students. Others involved in the scheme include resource companies, food manufacturers, banks, oil companies and retailers, transport and construction companies.

Lindsay Kranz said Tom, a Year 10 student at Telopea Park High School and son of Navy Systems Command's CAPT Craig Kerr, was the last of four from a field of 122 for the year who applied for AFS Scholarships as a child of a Defence employee.

Tom will live with an Italian family in Rome and attend school during his stay. In addition to financial assistance for air fares and education, has been presented a \$50 phone card from Telstra to 'go home on the telephone' after he departs for Italy next month.

'He's extremely motivated, with excellent academic results, and interests in swimming and cycling,' Lindsay Kranz said. 'He enjoys designing cars, architecture and sport.'

Also at the ceremony were previous and current AFS scholars such as Patricia Gregory, who lived in Switzerland and recounted her experiences in both Italian and English, and Junko Mizuno from Japan, who is currently staying with the Kerrs and attending school in Canberra.

Manager Corporate and Community Relations for AFS Intercultural Programs Australia, Elizabeth Morse, an AFS scholar herself some 39 years before, said there was widespread interest and involvement in Defence in the scholarships, and many in Defence have hosted and continue to host AFS scholarship winners from overseas.

The movement grew out of World War I when a group of young American men in the American Field Service, whose task it had been to drive ambulances to bring military and civilians from the battlefield to safety, began a modest

exchange of university students between France and the United States. After World War II, AFS volunteer drivers extended the program, bringing young people from around the world to the United States.

AFS high school exchanges began in Australia in 1959 and we send around 500 AFS students a year to 40 countries, while hosting some 600 students from other countries. Worldwide, more than 250,000 AFS students, their families and countless friends have built a global community through personal bonds and shared experiences.

Mrs Morse said AFS offered four scholarships per year for sons and daughters of Defence employees – one for children of civilian employees and one each for Navy, Army and Air Force.

'We judge the applications so they're at arms length from Defence, or other organisations or companies sponsoring scholarships,' she said, noting that AFS looked primarily for those young people who will be good ambassadors for Australia.

'They should have good school records, must be able to cope, and have broad interests. Basically good all-rounders.'

The availability of scholarships is publicised throughout Defence each year through DEFGRAM and in personnel magazines during the March/April period.

Information on AFS in general is available at <http://www.afs.org.au>

Contact: Joan Gilbert

Manager, Education

Phone: (02) 6266 4427

Email: joan.gilbert@cbr.defence.gov.au



Top: (L-R) Patricia Gregory, Joan Gilbert, Lindsay Kranz, Junko Mizuno, and Tom Kerr

Centre: The Kerr family with Junko Mizuno.

Bottom: Patricia Gregory and family



Defence Special Needs Support Group

Dig Deep for a Dollar Day

In October, Defence personnel are being asked to raise money to help their fellow Serving members and their families who have someone with special needs. The fundraiser is called 'Dig Deep for a Dollar Day' and the Defence Special Needs Support Group is looking for volunteer collectors.

All monies raised go directly to providing support, information and assistance to families with special needs.

If you can spare an hour or so sometime in October, then please contact us. You never know, you could be helping someone in your unit or your section. It could be someone at the next desk, or the person that works in the next office. It could even be you and your family at sometime.

Contact: Defence Special Needs Support Group
Phone: 1800 037 674
Email: national.coordinator@dsnsg.com.au

WANTED 20 Big Hearts

The Defence Special Needs Support Group needs 20 families to be part of our Circle of Friends.

Circle of Friends is a program designed to provide respite for Defence Force families caring for someone with a disability.

Circle of Friends relies upon the support of other Defence Force families or Defence Personnel to volunteer as a host family or peer support person.

All it takes is one day, one night or one weekend a month and a big heart. It might not sound like a lot to you, but to those caring for someone with a disability it means more than words can say.

For more information on how to be a host family or a peer support person, please see contact details below.



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

*Life's easier
with friends*

