ADF Members leaving Defence
Defence Community Organisation

Support for ADF members leaving Defence

ADF Transition Centres provide support, advice and information to ADF members and their families who are planning to leave Defence to make a seamless transition to civilian life.

Support services include practical information seminars, personalised assistance to prepare for transition, referrals, help with administration, and support for training and civilian employment.

To access any of these services or to find out more information contact the Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.

Deciding to leave Defence

Make sure you have the best possible information and advice at hand before you make any decision about your ongoing service.

You and your partner can attend an ADF Transition Seminar or talk to advisory staff at an ADF Transition Centre at any stage in your career. Your unit staff can also give you advice about the pros and cons of leaving Defence and the services available to you if you do.

If you have made the decision to move into civilian life it is important to be informed about what to expect as early planning and preparation will make your transition as smooth and successful as possible.

ADF Transition Seminars

ADF Transition Seminars are two-day interactive sessions held throughout the year, which equip ADF members and their families with tools and information to be well prepared for the move to civilian life.

You may attend more than one Seminar at any time in your Defence career, not only when you are planning an imminent separation.

Topics covered in the Seminars include separation administration, education and training, support services during transition, employment support and strategies, Reserve service, medical and dental care, compensation and service pensions, financial and legal matters, superannuation, housing and relocation, and additional support and family services.

Partners of members are encouraged to attend as many of these issues affect families.

You can apply to attend a seminar by contacting your nearest ADF Transition Centre.

ADF Transition Centres

We have ADF Transition Centres located across Australia, expressly to provide practical guidance and information to ADF members who are planning to leave Defence.

These centres:

- provide tailored information to assist you and your family to prepare for the change to civilian life,
- advise you on Defence procedures and the benefits and services that may be available to you,
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- assist you with administration requirements, and
- link you into other Defence and government support services (such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, ADF Rehabilitation Program, ComSuper and Centrelink) and community resources.

All separating ADF members must complete their administration through an ADF Transition Centre.

To find your nearest centre, visit the DCO website at www.defence.gov.au/dco or call the Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.

Support for career transition

We provide financial support to assist you to plan and prepare for a new civilian career. This support may include assistance towards education and training, career advice, resume coaching and financial counselling.

Your eligibility for benefits will depend on how long you have served and the reason you are leaving Defence. Additional assistance is available for members who are declared redundant or whose service is terminated for medical reasons.

Education and training assistance

Eligible members can access financial assistance toward education and training that contributes to civilian career readiness, from vocational courses to postgraduate study.

You must demonstrate that the course is relevant to your intended employment and is the minimum training required to make you competitive in your chosen field.

Career and resumé coaching

If you are unsure what career direction to take when you leave Defence or need help to build on your job search and application skills, you may receive career and resume coaching.

Approved absence

A limited number of days of approved absence may be used to undertake career activities such as on-job experience, job interviews, job search activities, and career training or coaching.

Financial counselling

Professional financial counselling is available to members who leave Defence because they are deemed medically unfit, are made redundant, reach compulsory retirement age or are given early retirement.

The ADF Transition Handbook

The ADF Transition Handbook is a quick and comprehensive guide to transition information and support, and is available on the DCO website and through ADF Transition Centres.

For more information on this handout and other Defence Community Organisation support services visit www.defence.gov.au/dco or call the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.

The Defence Community Organisation offers a range of support services for the families of ADF members. The best way to access these services is to call 1800 624 608. The Defence Family Helpline operates 24-7 and is staffed by qualified human services professionals including social workers and psychologists.