Defence Community Organisation has a range of programs to support the availability of childcare services to mobile Defence families who might face difficulties in sourcing childcare in new posting locations.

We provide financial assistance to community childcare organisations and Defence partners seeking to start a family day care business, in order to expand childcare options available to Defence families.

Guidelines and application forms for these programs are available on the DCO website at www.defence.gov.au/dco

To find out more, contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608 or DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au.

**Assistance for childcare organisations**

Organisations or groups that provide work-related childcare services to Defence families may be eligible for financial assistance.

As a general principle, the funding is offered to the organisation to expand the number of places that can be provided, in order to increase access for Defence families.

Organisations must be incorporated to receive this funding and employ childcare workers that meet the necessary state and territory regulations.

**Assistance for family day care set-up**

Funding is available to assist with some of the initial set-up costs incurred by Defence partners starting up a family day care business.

As a family day carer you can work from home providing small group child minding services—this may be particularly convenient if you have children of your own at home.

Family day care is also a very portable career that can get you involved in your new community after a posting.

Set-up costs that may be reimbursed include First Aid certification, public liability insurance, police checks, car safety certificate, and Family Day Care Australia registration fees.

This assistance does attract Fringe Benefits Tax and we strongly recommend you seek independent financial advice before committing to the program.

Family day care set-up assistance is also available through the Department of Employment Education and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). You can only claim reimbursement through one agency, either Defence or DEEWR.

**Further support for childcare**

Defence also supports the availability of childcare by providing a network of childcare centres around Australia which facilitate priority of access for Defence children. See the Defence childcare centres handout for more information.
Defence employees can choose to salary package their childcare fees at Defence childcare centres. Visit www.smartsalary.com.au for more information.

You can search for childcare options in your local area by using mychild.gov.au or calling the Childcare Access Hotline on 1800 670 305.

You can also call the Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608 for assistance with connecting with community resources like playgroups, parent groups and other support networks.

For more information on this factsheet 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 wide range of support services for the families of ADF members.

The best way to access these services is to call 1800 624 608. The all-hours Defence Family Helpline is staffed by qualified human services professionals including social workers and psychologists.