Defence childcare centres
Defence Community Organisation

Support for families seeking childcare options

Defence has established a network of childcare centres around Australia to support mobile Defence families who might have difficulty sourcing childcare in a new location.

These centres are managed by a licensed childcare provider, and offer long day care or before and after school care.

Children from newly-posted Defence families may be granted priority of access to their local Defence-run childcare centre.

To find out the details of your nearest Defence childcare centre, contact the Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.

If you have queries regarding the daily functions of the centres including enrolments, direct them to Mission Australia’s information hotline on 1800 757 343 during regular business hours.

The childcare service provider
Mission Australia Early Learning Services is currently contracted to manage the 22 Defence childcare centres.

The contract periodically undergoes a competitive tender process to determine the preferred childcare service provider.

Priority of access for Defence children
Defence facilitates priority of access to the childcare centres for mobile Defence families, where you have been posted to the new location within the last six months and the local community is unable to accommodate you.

Support for childcare
Defence Community Organisation provides financial assistance to community childcare organisations that offer services of value to Defence families, and assistance to Defence partners seeking to start a family day care business.

Defence employees can choose to salary package their childcare fees at Defence childcare centres, though you should visit www.smartsalary.com.au for more information.

Families seeking childcare options in their local area can use the mychild.gov.au website or call the government-run 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.