

# Welcome to Weipa

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## Welcome Message

Welcome to Weipa, a town of red earth, green trees, blue skies, blue sea and friendly people. If you are into camping and fishing then you are in heaven. If not, don't despair you will have time to relax and enjoy the laid back style that all the locals enjoy. We hope you enjoy your time in Weipa and appreciate this unique posting opportunity.

This DCO Information Pack provides a range of community information we hope you find useful during your posting. As such contact your local DCO office prior to your posting for a suitability interview if required.

Coming to Weipa in the wet season you will be amazed at the vibrant colours of the area. It really is a contrast of red, green & blue and yes it is a tropical and steamy place, but it is beautiful as well. If you come in the dry, the fields are a sea of autumn colour.

Weipa may be a remote community, but given it is a large mining town you will have access to many facilities and services, and if there is something you require that is not instantly available, local residents will know where to go, and how to get it.

DCO Cairns has professional staff available for assistance and they may be contacted on telephone 07 40539300. Office hours are from 0830 to 1700 Monday to Friday. After hours emergency contact can be made through NWCC on 1800 801 026.

DCO staff visit Weipa once a year and will make regular e-mail and phone contact if requested.

If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Karen Fitzpatrick  
Area Manager  
Defence Community Organisation  
Cairns  
07 4053 9300

# Defence Support Services

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## Defence Community Organisation (DCO)

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On behalf of Command, DCO delivers a broad range of targeted programs and services to support Australian Defence Force (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**

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3 Jensen St, Manoora  
Tel: (07) 4053 9300  
Fax: (07) 4032 1340  
Email: [dco.cairns@defence.gov.au](mailto:dco.cairns@defence.gov.au)

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## DCO Website

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

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## After Hours Emergency Support

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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.

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# Defence

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Weipa is host to two integral ADF establishments. These establishments are B Company 51st Battalion Far North Queensland Regiment (51 FNQR) and RAAF Scherger.

Location of B Company 51st Battalion Far North Queensland Regiment (51 FNQR)

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## Overview of B Company 51 FNQR

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B Company 51st Battalion is located at Army Depot, Evans Landing, Weipa, 4874

Tel: (07) 4030 9300 Fax: (07) 4030 9306

The Army Reserve Unit in Weipa is a regional force surveillance unit (RFSU), which conducts reconnaissance and surveillance to detect and confirm enemy activity across the far north of Australia. The unit considers their main strength to be their soldiers' local area knowledge.

There are five ARA personnel serving in Weipa. The unit also host various training courses for the Battalion such as the Boats Handling Course and is active in recruiting reservists and building good working relationships with the community in Weipa and the surrounding area.

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## Overview of RAAF Scherger

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It is a RAAF Base situated 33km from Weipa with 1 Site Manager and 3 staff who provide maintenance and security for the base. The road from Weipa to RAAF Scherger is unsealed and travel during the Wet season is not recommended for any but 4WD.

RAAF Scherger has four permanent Defence members and civilian contractors. This team is required to maintain the base in a state of readiness, the base is capable of being activated within 48hrs and can accommodate 400+ personnel. The focus is to provide the ADF and its allies a base from which fully functional air operations can be conducted. To achieve this state of readiness, as well as meet the ongoing commitment of hosting various exercises and defence operations that occur throughout the year, the members carry out a wide range of duties.

These varying duties provide the team with an exciting blend of challenge and achievement. External fence runs can provide some adventure at times, involving some 4WD sections during the wet and the ever present chance of coming face to face with one of the many wild boars and cattle that range in and around the Military Zone. Providing support to night operations conducted by the Army is also exciting. There is also the safety critical task of ensuring the runway is safe for aircraft movements. Another important task of the site management staff is to provide refuelling and various levels of ground support to the aircraft that do utilise RAAF Scherger.

The staff are also responsible for maintaining 200 rooms at immediate notice all year round. The mess facilities are kept prepared by exhaustive functional tests week in and week out. The seemingly mundane tasks of maintaining the infrastructure required to run an entire base is kept invigorating by the knowledge that you are providing forward theatre capability for Airpower in the North Eastern region.

The staff and their families liaise closely with the local businesses and the wider community. They strive to foster a close working relationship that is sometimes challenging, but always rewarding to ensure that the base can function in such an isolated part of the world. The staff along with civilian contractors in short do everything within their power to keep an airbase open.

The hours are often long and so the staff do not always have the opportunity to enjoy what the region has to offer, but when they do, they get to take time out in the playground that is Cape York. The fishing, boating, camping, shooting, 4WD'ing, and the natural ruggedness that surrounds RAAF Scherger, is to many Australians an ultimate mix of adventure that is second to none and draws them back year after year. The staff have all these opportunities at their doorstep.

The local town of Weipa, while small, does provide the opportunity to enjoy a quiet meal with friends in one of the three licensed venues. On weekends you are often presented with the chance to take in some light entertainment at the same three venues. The shopping centre is not extensive but it does sell most of the items that any family would need.

Written By the RAAF Base Scherger Team.

# Education

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## **Regional Education Liaison Officer**

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

### **REDLO North Queensland**

Tel: (07) 4753 6532

Email: [redlo.nthqld@defence.gov.au](mailto:redlo.nthqld@defence.gov.au)

Further details on schools and the education system can be accessed at the following:

#### ***Education Queensland***

Tel: (07) 4046 5222

Internet: [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)

#### ***Diocesan Education Services***

Tel: (07) 4050 9700

Internet: [www.ceo.cairns.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ceo.cairns.catholic.edu.au)

#### ***Independent Schools Queensland***

Tel: (07) 3228 1515

Internet: [www.aisq.qld.edu.au](http://www.aisq.qld.edu.au)

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## **Preschools**

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### **Napranum Community Preschool and Kindergarten Albatross Road.**

Napranum, 4874.

Phone: (07) 40697336 Fax: (07) 40697324.

Affiliated with the Crèche and Kindergarten Assoc. QLD.

### **Weipa Kindergarten and Preschool**

Rocky Point, Weipa, PO Box 70, Weipa, QLD 4874

Phone/Fax: (07) 40699293.

Affiliated with the Crèche and Kindergarten Association of QLD. They cater for children aged 3-5 years.

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### **Schools**

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#### **Western Cape College**

Central Avenue, PO Box 185, Weipa, 4874.

Prep to year 12.

(07) 40906444 Fax: (07) 40906400

For more information on the school visit the website -  
<http://www.westerncapecollege.eq.edu.au/>

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### **Adult Education**

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Despite Weipa's distance from TAFE Colleges and Universities, it is possible for people living here to study a degree or diploma or undertake a short hobby or adult education course. DCO REDLO can provide information to assist you in pursuing your studies.

Many people throughout Australia, including Weipa, are undertaking external studies, which has become an increasingly popular means of achieving educational goals. The Hibberd Library has a comprehensive range of Australian University and College handbooks, which list details of courses including a directory of tertiary external courses in Australia.

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# Employment

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## The Partner Education and Employment Program (PEEP)

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**Take a PEEP at your future**

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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 provides an education and employment allowance of \$12,000 for a ten-year period to assist recognised ADF partners to better position themselves for employment through a range of initiatives when posted with the ADF member.

The program has been developed in response to feedback received from the Defence Family Survey and an evaluation of the former Services Workforce Access Program for Partners (SWAPP) SELECT. Effective from 1 July 2010, PEEP replaces SWAPP SELECT.

Support available to partners includes assistance with: superannuation set-up; professional employment assistance; child care, education and training; personalised resume preparation; and professional re-registration expense payments.

The funding is capped at \$6,000 per posting for the agreed initiatives. Existing funding caps have been removed, apart from child care which remains capped at \$250 per child per posting. The requirement for training to be completed within 12 months has been eliminated to allow partners to undertake tertiary education to develop longer term career options.

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### **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 maybe 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 phone number supported by a team to assist partners in making the right choice about higher education and government loan options
- a flexible and 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 textbooks for the first five units
- extended online tutorial support.

### **Looking for a job? Try Jobsearch**

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When seeking employment, ADF partners are encouraged to use Jobsearch – Australia's largest free online jobs website.

Internet: [www.jobsearch.com.au](http://www.jobsearch.com.au)

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## Want a peep at PEEP?

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

Internet: [www.defence.gov.au/dco/PEEP](http://www.defence.gov.au/dco/PEEP)

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## Local Employment Opportunities

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Defence spouses who have sought employment in Weipa have generally been able to find work in areas such as at Woolworths, Credit Union, School, Health Services and the local community centre

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# Children's Services

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## 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 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.

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## Defence Child Care Centres

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There are currently 21 Defence/corporate child care centres across Australia that participate in the National Childcare Accreditation Council Quality Improvement Program. These centres are managed by B4Kids 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. Unfortunately, there are no Centres available in the Weipa area.

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## **National Enrolment Call Centre**

B4Kids operates a national booking/contact number (Tel: 1300 265 600), for families to access placements in Defence/corporate child care centres. Further information on B4Kids centres can be found at Internet: [www.b4kids.com.au](http://www.b4kids.com.au).

Contact B4Kids to:

- 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/corporate child care centres.

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## **Handy Contacts**

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### *Defence Community Organisation*

Internet: [www.defence.gov.au/dco/childcare.htm](http://www.defence.gov.au/dco/childcare.htm)

### *B4Kids Pty Ltd*

Tel: 1300 265 600

Internet: [www.b4kids.com.au](http://www.b4kids.com.au)

### *Child Care Access Hotline*

Tel: 1800 670 305

Provides up-to-date information about child care options and locations.

### *Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)*

Internet: [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au)

### *The National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC)*

Internet: [www.ncac.gov.au](http://www.ncac.gov.au)

### *Family Day Care Australia*

Tel: (02) 4320 1100 or 1800 621 218

Internet: [www.familydaycare.com.au](http://www.familydaycare.com.au)

### *Pebbles Playgroup*

Located near the Hibberd Centre at Rocky Point.

Tel: (07) 4069 9574

Pebbles is a part of the Playgroup Association of Queensland and is about support and socialisation for parents/guardians and children for 0-5 years old.

Weipa Family Day Care Scheme, Hibberd Centre, Weipa 4874

Tel: (07) 4069 9272

Cape Kids Childcare Centre  
Wattle Terrance, Weipa  
Tel: (07) 4069 9911  
0-5years

If childcare is required you need to put the child's name on the waiting list prior to your posting.

# Special Needs

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When Defence families with special needs are posted, they may have difficulties accessing the services they require. These problems tend to relate to obtaining (or keeping) appropriate specialised equipment, waiting lists for accessing respite or therapy services in the new locality, and having appropriate 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 comprehensive program of assistance and support 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 and reviewed by Defence
- 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.

## **Children with Special Needs**

The decision of 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 generally and 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 to facilitate the appropriate placement as soon as notification of posting is given, so that the support required is available for the student from the time of arrival at the new school.*

# Relocations and Housing

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## 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 or relocation services, do not hesitate to contact your local Defence Relocations and Housing Manager, listed below.

Merv Diction:      Tel: (07) 4411 7922, Mob: 0408 457 468

Kelly West:        Tel: (07) 4411 7831, Mob: 0409 587 028

## 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 **139 DHA (139 342)** for advice or visit our website (**[www.dha.gov.au](http://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.

**[www.dha.gov.au](http://www.dha.gov.au)**

**139 DHA (139 342)**

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## Toll Transitions

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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](http://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**.

DHA manages 9 homes in Weipa and a further 4 homes at RAAF Base Sherger. The Weipa properties include 2 townhouse complexes of two each, 4 properties are single story and the remainder is high set. All homes are of a good size and fully airconditioned. Floor coverings range from carpet, tiles and vinyl. All have storage areas and are close to all Weipa amenities.

All houses are furnished with major items such as lounges, dining room suites, beds, whitegoods, essential tables and outdoor settings. Members need to bring items such as kitchen equipment, linen, entertainment equipment (TV,DVD, Video etc).

Condition of furniture varies from each house (give consideration to bringing your own furniture). Items like camping equipment, BBQ, outdoor setting, breadmaker, cappuccino machine, yogurt maker, breadmaker and water filters (Britta) are worth bringing.

At RAAF Base Sherger the four properties are all high set, four-bedroom homes. They are fully air- conditioned with vinyl floor coverings and ample storage. There is a communal pool at the back of the four houses. Electricity and water utilities are provided free from the base supply. RAAF Sherger is approx 33 km from Weipa and these homes are marked for RAAF Scherger caretaker staff.

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DHA Townsville manages the Weipa/Sherger stock. Regular visits are undertaken by DHA Townsville staff to Weipa/RAAF Scherger to meet with tenants.

Handy contact Information:

DHA Townsville

(07) 4726 1800

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# Health

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## ADF Family Health Trial

### **Defence Families in Cairns Can Benefit from the ADF Family Health Trial**

Since May 2009, dependants of ADF members posted to Cairns, including outposts at Mt Isa, Thursday Island and Weipa, have been eligible to benefit from the ADF Family Health Trial. It's the Australian Government's way of saying 'thank you' for the commitment and sacrifices you make every day. The trial provides a payment for basic medical services and non-cosmetic dental services.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible to register for trial participation, you must be a recognised dependant of a permanent ADF member or a recognised dependant of a reservist on continuous full-time service. You must also reside in a trial location and be recognised for ADF housing purposes.

### **Medical Cover**

Medical services included in the ADF Family Health Trial are eligible medical treatments provided in a general practice setting.

To find out how to access the benefits in your region and to view eligible medical treatments please visit the ADF Family Health website or contact the ADF Family Health team.

### **Dental Cover**

Each registered dependant also receives a \$320 benefit per calendar year for non-cosmetic dental services. The dental benefit may be accessed anywhere in Australia. Where dental providers use HICAPS, dependants can use the ADF Family Health Card to claim the benefit electronically. In circumstances where electronic processing of claims is not available, a manual claim must be submitted. The dental claim form is available on the ADF Family Health website (see below).

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### **Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT)**

Services accessed as part of this trial may attract FBT and it is recommended that financial advice be sought before registration. (Links to additional information about FBT can be found on the ADF Family Health website.)

### **How To Register**

ADF members can locate the registration form (AD858-1) via web forms. The form is also available on the ADF Family Health website. The conditions of use and a checklist are attached to the registration form to assist you with the registration process.

For additional information please contact the ADF Family Health team on Tel: (02) 6266 3547 or visit our website.

Intranet: <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/vcdf/sites/ADFDepHealth>

Internet: [http://www.defence.gov.au/health/Dependant\\_Healthcare/i-healthcare.htm](http://www.defence.gov.au/health/Dependant_Healthcare/i-healthcare.htm)

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## **Other Health Information**

### **Pests and Insects**

Green ants, cockroaches, sandflies and spiders are predominant in the Weipa 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 distinctive clicking noises and hunt for insects. Mosquitoes and sandflies make outdoor living difficult during the wetter months. The use of insect repellents, particularly for children, is considered a normal prelude to any outdoor activities.

### **Tropical Ear**

Children and adults may suffer from ear infections soon after arrival in Weipa, often after swimming in pools. This infection, which inflames the ear canal, is caused by water trapped behind wax deposits, allowing bacterial or fungal infections to develop. Pharmacies sell several types of preventative eardrops.

### **Cane Toads**

The toad has secretion on its skin which is poisonous. Young children and pets can become quite sick if they touch and then eat the secretion.

### **Marine Stingers**

The stinger season is from October to April, although they can be present all year round. Usually, stingers are found in shallow water, are more numerous after rain, and prefer calm seas. If stung, do not rub the stung area – flood with vinegar instead. Use resuscitation where necessary, and call for medical assistance.

### **Ticks**

Paralysis ticks are prevalent in Far North QLD, especially during the wet season. There are preparations available from pet shops and veterinary clinics that help to discourage ticks. Regular checks of your pet are advisable. If a tick is discovered, apply methylated spirits and

gently remove. It is always prudent to seek medical or veterinary advice.

### **Crocodiles**

Crocodiles inhabit all waterways around Weipa. For your own safety do not swim in the rivers or the sea.

### **Heat Rash**

Many children suffer from heat rash in our tropical climate, especially infants still in nappies. Medications are available from the pharmacy (or, in severe cases, the doctor) to ease the symptoms. It is important to dress children in light, loose-fitting clothing and keep them cool (via sprinklers, splash pool, fans and air-conditioned shopping centres).

### **Skin Cancer**

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, and each year about 1,000 people die from it. Ultraviolet radiation levels in Queensland remain in the high to extreme category all year round; therefore, we have to be wise after sunrise – every day. The good news is that being sun smart is easy! All you have to do is develop the habit of protecting yourself before you go outside:

- limit your exposure
- remember that ultraviolet (UV) radiation is strongest between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm
- make use of shade
- wear clothing that covers as much of the skin as possible
- wear a hat with a broad brim of at least 8 cm, which protects your face, neck and ears
- wear good-quality wraparound sunglasses – those which comply with the Australian Standard AS1067 are best
- use SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.

### **Contacts**

#### **Weipa Hospital**

Address: Lot 407 John Evans Drive, Weipa 4874.

General Phone: 07 4082 3900

General Fax: 07 4082 3799

Office Hours: 0800 to 1700 Mon to Fri

#### **Facility Services:**

Hospital	Outpatient Service - M - F 8.00 - 17.00, Medical/Surgical, 14 bed Inpatient Services, Casualty Services for Weipa and surrounding communities, X-Ray, Palliative Care.
Visiting Specialist Services	Endoscopies, Obstetric & Gynaecological, Ophthalmic Surgery, Colonoscopies, Dental, Mental Health, RFDS

	Women's health, Paediatric, Optometrist, chest clinic, breast screening, Rheumatology, ENT.
Clinics Available	Child Health/Immunisation Clinic, Antenatal Clinic/Women's Health, Diabetes, Mental health, Sexual Health, general medicine, FNQRDGP providing fortnightly service of Podiatry, Nutritionist and Diabetic education, ATODS.
Other Services	Antenatal Classes in the community, Liaison Officer (Indigenous) Services, Physiotherapy.

The Royal Flying Doctors Service is available to transport any patient who cannot be cared for by the Weipa Hospital. The RFDS will generally transport patients to Cairns.

### **Napranum Primary Health Care Centre**

Munding Road, NAPRANUM QLD 4874  
(07) 4069 7459

### **Ambulance**

Queensland Ambulance Service  
2 Bauhinia Avenue, Weipa, 4878. Phone: (07) 40699811 Fax: (07) 40699842. All other enquires Phone (07) 40699825. For urgent cases phone 000, make sure you tell the operator you are in WEIPA or RAAF Base Scherger 33km on Coen Rd.

### **Chemist**

Cape York Pharmacy  
Nanum Shopping Centre, Weipa, 4874  
Phone: (07) 40697412  
Pharmaceutical needs, photo processing, toys and baby accessories, souvenirs and gifts.

**Dentist** (Visiting Dentist check for surgery days)  
Weipa Dental Surgery, Health Block, Rocky Point, Weipa. 4874  
Phone: (07) 40699411 or Cairns (07) 4051 2500

# Defence Community Groups

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## Defence Special Needs Support Group

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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, a 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

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## Defence Families of Australia

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Defence Families of Australia (DFA) has been representing the views of Defence families for more than 20 years. It is a voluntary group of energetic and dedicated Defence spouses appointed by the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel. We are in the unique position of having access to the Minister, Chief of the Defence Force (CDF), senior Defence members and key organisations that directly impact on the lives of Defence families.

DFA's aim is to improve the quality of life for Defence families by providing a recognised forum for their views, and by reporting, making recommendations and influencing policy that directly affects families. The DFA Executive attracts volunteers from all services and ranks to ensure that we represent families adequately and understand the issues at all levels. We are all living the unique lifestyle that comes from being married to a Defence member. DFA also recognises that families today are very diverse and face different challenges as they move through their phases of life.

Geographically, DFA volunteers are located all around Australia, representing families at a local, regional and national level. Our National Delegates are situated in each state and we try to have a Senior Representative on each base also. We rely on good communication between each other and the families in each region to ensure that, when issues are raised, they are taken to the appropriate stakeholder at a local level or, if necessary, raised at a national level.

Issues and committees that DFA is currently involved in include:

- child care expansion program
- Family Support Funding Advisory Committee
- Defence Housing Australia Advisory Committee
- new housing classification policy
- superannuation review
- deployment, relocations and housing support
- education assistance review
- support to community groups and houses

DFA's National Conference is held annually and provides an opportunity for face-to-face time where we discuss and develop feedback from all regions. We liaise with Defence stakeholders and work with areas that support ADF families. Together, as a team, solutions, additions,

improvements and initiatives are created for ADF families.

### **Support!**

DFA seeks the opinion of families about essential services and entitlements. By joining our DFA family network, you are supporting our aims to represent your needs and improve service conditions for all ADF families. Please take a few minutes to enter your details on our website.

Internet: [www.dfa.org.au](http://www.dfa.org.au)

You will receive quarterly DFA news bulletins updating you on DFA activities and contribute to being a 'voice for Defence families'.

### **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 or check out our website.

Up-to-date family/spouse information is also available on our website.

Internet: [www.dfa.org.au](http://www.dfa.org.au)

### **For Help and Advice**

**Tel: 1800 100 509**

# Locality Information

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## **Geography, Climate & History**

Weipa is a small but vibrant coastal community with a population of approximately 2,000. It is situated on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula approximately 200 kilometres from the 'tip' of Cape York. It is less than 200 kilometres across to the east coast of the Cape and approximately 800 road kilometres and 580 air kilometres from Cairns.

Weipa is predominantly a mining town, now being the largest bauxite mine in the world. The bauxite is mined, washed, graded and loaded for shipment to the aluminium processing plant at Gladstone. In some instances the raw bauxite is shipped directly overseas.

The region boasts some of the last untouched wilderness of Australia with stunning beaches, out-of-the-way waterholes and camping destinations.

The town of Weipa is approximately 10 square kilometres and within this area there are three neighbourhoods: Rocky Point, Trunding and Nanum. Evans Landing (more commonly known as 'The Landing') is the site of industrial and other businesses. Fishing boats and other small craft refuel at the Evans Landing wharf, a popular fishing spot for locals and tourists alike.

The tropical/monsoonal climate gives hot, wet summers and mild dry winters. The average rainfall is 1700mm, 97% of the rainfall occurs between November and April. The seasons can be divided into just two – the 'wet' season between November and April, and the 'dry' season

between May and October.

Minimum and maximum temperatures range, on average, from 18°C to 30°C in July, and 24°C to 36°C in December. Winds blow predominantly from the east and southeast during the dry season, and from the west and north during the wet season. Weipa is within Australia's cyclone belt, but fortunately, has not experienced a major cyclone since meteorological records were first kept in 1911.

Although Weipa is geographically part of the Cooktown Shire (a shire which covers 11 330 000 ha from Cooktown to the Cape) it is run by Weipa Town Office. A special act of the Queensland Parliament gave the township the status of a Special Bauxite Mining Lease and handed control over to Comalco Aluminium. The Town Office acts in the role of Local Authority and has staff which one would normally associate with a local council, including a town administrator, building surveyor, public librarian etc. The services supplied through Town Office are also of a similar nature to those supplied by local councils throughout Australia i.e. Road maintenance, water supply, town planning, public swimming pool, parks and ovals and garbage collection.

The town and its community are continuing to develop, as evidenced by the formation of the Weipa Chamber of Commerce and the Weipa Community Care Association Inc., which has established the Family Day Care Scheme.

The region has a rich and unique Aboriginal Heritage. The first contact the people of Western Cape York Peninsula had with Europeans probably came with the voyage of the Dutch ship, Duyfken in 1606. Further contact with Europeans came about in the last 1800s when exploration of the region's natural resources began.

On 14 March 2001, history was made when Traditional Owners of the Western Cape area, Comalco Aluminium Limited and the State Government, signed the Western Cape Communities Co-Existence Agreement (WCCCA). This Agreement is a commitment from the signed parties

to focus on Aboriginal economy, culture, education, employment and training.

Weipa's economic history is predominantly linked with Comalco's bauxite mine, which has been operating since the early 1960s. This is the main industry in Weipa, although the tourism industry, especially fishing and eco-tourism is rapidly growing.

**For more information visit <http://www.weipa.biz/>**

**The Weipa Local Community Directory which has information about restaurants, community groups and activities can be purchased from the Newsagency upon arrival.**

**There are community noticeboards at either end of the Woolworths Shopping Centre which are used to advertise local events, items for sale and available services.**

## **Shopping and Entertainment**

There are two main shopping centres in Weipa. They are as follows:

**Woolworths Shopping Complex:**

- Woolworths
- Butcher
- Chemist
- Bakery
- Hairdresser
- Bottle Shop
- Cape Cafe
- Video 2000
- Weipa 4WD and Fishing store
- Arrows - discount clothing
- Tropicano surf shop
- ITEC Employment

**McNamara's Centre:**

- Betta Electrical
- Weipa Newsagency and Sports Store
- Diamonds and Gold (souvenir and gift shop)
- Australia Post

As the cost of food can be expensive and limited in variety, it is a good idea to stock up on non-perishables prior to moving (the goods can be moved in your uplift eg. toilet paper, shampoo, washing powder & tin foods). Most families also re-stock when they return to the larger cities on leave or business. You can also order food (including frozen foods and meat) from the large chain stores in Mareeba or Cairns and have them freighted to you in Weipa, via one of the local carriers. The butcher has frozen meat available except beef.

To ensure the freshness of fruit, vegetables and milk it is advisable to purchase perishable items at the beginning of the week, when the barge comes in.

The following businesses are commonly used by Weipa Defence Families for ordering food:

Westcourt Plaza - (07) 4051 8766

Coles Mareeba – (07) 4092 2566 [www.coles.com.au](http://www.coles.com.au)

Woolworths, Abbott St, Cairns – (07) 4051 2015

Portsmouth Bulk Meats, Cnr Cook & Aumuller Sts, Cairns – (07) 4035 2233

Lenard's (Chicken)

- Cairns Central – (07) 4041 0699
- Earlville – (07) 4033 7042
- Manunda – (07) 4053 9880
- Smithfield - (07) 4038 1581

- Westcourt - (07) 4051 3151

[www.myer.com.au](http://www.myer.com.au)

[www.target.com.au](http://www.target.com.au)

[www.kmart.com.au](http://www.kmart.com.au)

### **Restaurants/Food & Bars**

Thai Wok Restaurant  
Heritage Resort – Ph (07) 4069 8000

Trawlers Restaurant  
Albatross Hotel – ph (07) 4090 6666

Weipa Bowls Club Restaurant (takeaway pizza menu available)  
Ph – (07) 4069 7300

Golfies Pizza Bar & Grill (takeaway pizza menu available)  
Ph – (07) 4069 7850

Cape Café  
Ph – (07) 4069 7298

### **Places of Interest**

#### **Lake Patricia and Lake McLeod**

These freshwater, man-made lakes are used regularly for sailing by local residents. Caution must still be taken when swimming in the lakes, as there have been alleged crocodile sightings. The lakes are a popular recreational area with picnic tables, BBQ's and public toilets available. No powerboats are allowed on the lakes.

#### **Boating and Fishing**

Boating and Fishing are very popular past times in Weipa, with many people owning small boats. For any information regarding safety regulations and certificate of competency etc. contact Queensland Transport – Marine Operations. A comprehensive selection of leaflets dealing with all aspects of boating safety, navigation marks and small boat regulations are also available. For those anglers interested in competitive fishing Weipa has a Sports Fishing Club.

#### **Boat Ramps**

A public boat ramp is situated adjacent to Evans Landing Wharf. This ramp has a walkway and floating pontoon alongside to facilitate safe launching and boarding of small boats. This pontoon should not be used as a permanent mooring.

### **Ovals and Parks**

There are several public ovals in Weipa used by numerous sporting clubs. There are three public sports fields: Weipa Rugby Field, Weipa Sports Field, located on the Andoom Road and the Cricket Ground at Rocky Point (behind the Police Station). Weipa also has a number of public parks with picnic and BBQ facilities. Parks can be found behind the Picture Theatre at Rocky Point, at Lake Patricia, and children's playgrounds and parks are situated at Rocky Point and Nanum.

### **Uningan Bicentennial and Recreation Reserve**

The Uningan Nature Reserve has been developed by the Weipa Bicentennial Community Committee, volunteers and with the support of the Napranum Council and Comalco Aluminium Limited. The reserve covers an area of over 2,800 hectares and includes habitats such as an open woodland, palm forests and mangroves.

Nine kilometres of walking tracks have been marked and several footbridges constructed over creeks in the area. Data has been gathered on the flora, fauna and Aboriginal knowledge of the reserve. Features such as the large shell mounds (middens) and canoe trees have been sign posted.

The 'Uningan Guide' is a locally produced guide to Weipa's fish, flora and fauna habitats. It has many illustrations, all by local artists. There are detailed descriptions of traditional Aboriginal life during the seasons and the Thaynak with language for bush foods. It is available at the Hibberd Library.

### **Tourist Information**

Tourist Information, maps and camping permits are available from the Town Office or the Weipa Camping Grounds and Caravan Park. There is also a tourist information board 5 minutes south of the town. For mine tours from June to October see Weipa Camping Grounds and Caravan Park, Nanum.

### **The Hibberd Library –Public Library**

Telephone: (07) 4030 9408

E-mail: [weipalibrary@hotmail.com](mailto:weipalibrary@hotmail.com)

### **Swimming Pool**

Telephone: (07) 4069 7637

Located at Rocky Point, 25m Pool

### **Sporting and Leisure activities**

There are plenty of sporting and leisure activities in Weipa to suit all members of the family including BMX, horses, cars, cricket, golf, bowls, yoga just to mention a few. There are tracks throughout Weipa that are popular for walking and cycling. All of Weipa is accessible by these tracks, from the swimming pool, to the town centre. Uningan Nature Reserve also has walking tracks.

Boating, camping and fishing are also very popular activities for the whole family. Swimming is also favoured, and Weipa has a 25-metre swimming pool and two freshwater artificial lakes (Lake Patricia and Lake McLeod). It is recommended that you exercise caution when swimming anywhere apart from the public swimming pool due the presence of crocodiles.

It is fairly common to see people out and about exercising in Weipa. Whether it be for personal fitness or training for organised sports, exercising is a popular activity in itself. There are bike tracks all around the town, and even to some of Comalco's work areas. An added advantage is that there are no hills to contend with – just the occasional headwind! A gymnasium is located at Rocky Point.

**Weipa Sports Association**

ph. (07) 4069 7402

(combined sports club – Squash, Basketball, Tennis Netball and Volleyball)

**Cape York Bow Hunters Club**

ph. (07) 4069 7898 or (07) 4069 7358

**Cape York Motorcycle Club**

ph. (07) 4069 8230

**Hash House Harriers**

ph. (07) 4069 7763

**Weipa Touch Football Association**

ph. (07) 4069 7818

**Weipa Swimming Club**

ph. (07) 4069 7637

**Weipa Junior Soccer Club**

ph. (07) 4069 9473

**Weipa Gymastics Club**

**Also see**

[www.weipatownoffice.com](http://www.weipatownoffice.com)

[www.weipabiz.com.au](http://www.weipabiz.com.au)

**Television & Radio**

Television

- ABC Television Channel 2
- SBS
- Imparja Television (a mix of Channel 9 & Channel 10)
- QTV Channel 7 all broadcast daily.
- Austar is also available in Weipa for an additional charge.

*Satellite TV can be lost during bad weather.*

#### Radio Stations

ABC Radio 4WP is transmitted to Weipa from Cairns 24 hrs a day, Radio 4AM is transmitted to Weipa at FM 97.7 24 hrs a day, and the latest addition is Rebel FM.

#### Local Government

Weipa is currently managed by the Weipa Town Authority in partnership with Rio Tinto Alcan. While there are similarities between the structure of the Weipa Town Authority and other local councils throughout Queensland, Weipa is not a declared area for local government, managed solely by a council of elected members. Rio Tinto Alcan built Weipa and continues to contribute towards the running of the town. Weipa has been gazetted as a local authority area and has adopted local laws. There is also an Advisory Development Plan to govern and guide the future development of the township.

#### Local Laws

For a copy of the local laws please see the receptionist at Town Office or visit <http://www.weipatownoffice.com/51.html>

## General Services

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#### Banking

There is a branch of the Queensland Country Credit Union located in Weipa and the Post Office is an agent for the Commonwealth Bank.

#### Newspapers

Weipa's own weekly newspaper is published every Friday and is available from outlets around Weipa. Look in the Weipa Bulletin for "What's Happening" which provides locals with an up-to-date diary of events happening in that particular week.

The Cairns Post, Courier Mail and other newspapers are also available, however you will have to wait until later in the day to collect them as they arrive on the late plane.

#### Community Centre

The Weipa Community Centre & Second-hand Shop cares for the well being of all residents of the Weipa Community. The volunteer and paid staff are friendly and encourage residents to drop in for coffee and cake.

Hibberd Centre, Hibberd Drive, Weipa. Tel: (07) 4069 9877

## **Disability Services**

A detailed list of disability services is held at the local DCO office and can be accessed by contacting the DCO on Tel: (07) 4053 9300.

## **Electoral**

The division of Leichardt covers an area of approximately 150 236 sq km from the Torres Strait Islands in the north to Edmonton in the south. The main towns include Cairns, Coen, Cooktown, Edmonton, Kuranda, Mossman, Port Douglas, Thursday Island and Weipa.

To put your name on the electoral roll for local, state and federal elections, contact the Australian Electoral Commission, 2nd Floor, 104 Grafton St, Cairns. Cairns falls into the federal electorate of Leichardt and consists of the state seats of Cairns, Barron River and Mulgrave.

# Essential Services

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## **Local Council**

Town Office at Rocky Point is the place to go for any local government inquiries for Weipa:

- Community Information
- Dog Registration
- Immunisations
- Rates
- Public Library Services
- Building Permits/Advice
- Developmental Plans
- Environmental Health
- Roads Traffic, Street Lighting, Parks, Gardens, Reserves and Sports Fields
- Town Office Services
- Weipa Town Authority

Phone: (07) 4030 9400 Fax: (07) 4069 9800.

## **Electricity**

Electricity in Weipa is supplied by Rio Tinto.

For connections and enquiries Tel: (07) 4069 8551

### **General Refuse Services**

**Rubbish days:** Monday and Thursday - Nanum and Trunding

Tuesday and Friday - Rocky Point and Golf Links Estate

### **Garden Refuse**

A twice-yearly bulk pick-up of garden waste is also provided. The services coincide with the end of the wet season and prior to the cyclone season.

### **Pre-Cyclone Season Cleanup**

An annual pick-up of other waste likely to become a missile in a cyclone is also provided. The service is conducted prior to the cyclone season. Details are advertised via the weekly newspaper, The Weipa Bulletin.

### **Water Supply at Weipa**

Water restrictions apply to lawn and garden watering all year round. Copies of the current water use policy are available at Town Office, and changes to the policy are published in the Weipa Bulletin and at <http://www.weipatownoffice.com/>. Penalties will be imposed on those not adhering to water restrictions.

### **Department of Justice**

Magistrates Court Office Phone (07) 40699999

Business Hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 4.30pm Clerk of the Court/ Registrar/ Justice of the Peace.

Agency for:\* Transport Department – Registrations, renewals, transfers and permits. \* Public Trustee – Wills. \* Suncorp Metway

# Transport

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## **Road Transport**

Weipa is 804 kilometres from Cairns (8- 12 hours by road), accessed by the Peninsula Development Road. The Development Road is mostly unsealed and can be treacherous in certain areas. Care should be exercised when using the road and it is advisable to drive with your vehicle lights on, to ensure your visibility to other traffic. The road is closed during the wet season, usually from November to April. Road conditions are available through RACQ (at Weipa Service centre, Boundary Road). Road freight services exist from Cairns to Weipa mainly during the dry season.

## **Air Transport**

Weipa airport is situated 15 kilometres from the township and is the only licensed aerodrome, which services the town. The airport has a sealed runway with runway lighting and navigational aids.

Qantas Link offers a daily flight between Weipa and Cairns. There are also several charter airlines, which operate out of Weipa and are available for passenger and freight transport.

## **Sea Transport**

The port of Weipa handles more than 250 vessels per year and consists of three wharves. Lorim Point Wharf is used for the export of bauxite. It consists of two ship loading berths and the available depth of water is 12.5 metres. Humbug Wharf handles general cargo and heavy equipment with a depth alongside the berth of 8.1 metres. The Evans Landing Wharf is used for petroleum products, naval purposes and commercial fishing activities and the depth alongside being 9.6 meters. The Harbour operations are under jurisdiction of a Government Harbour Master. There are also three tugs available for shipping movements.

## **Freighting Goods into Weipa**

There are a number of ways to freight goods into Weipa:

Air freight (via daily aeroplane services or overnight air bags)

Road freight (via trucking companies which regularly freight goods into Weipa, providing the Development Road is open.)

Sea freight (via the weekly barge service)

Post-air mail/surface mail (via Australia Post)

Don't forget to remind all your relatives, friends and business associates to send their letters etc., via airmail, otherwise you could be waiting a while for your mail.

## **Contacts:**

Weipa Air Charter

Ph/Fax: (07) 40697248

Organises and books air charters for passengers

Qantas

Ph: 13 13 13

Weipa Air, Hanger 1, Weipa Airport

Phone: (07) 40697807 Fax: (07) 40697815

Weipa Air is an air charter business (a kind of aerial taxi service). They also offer assistance in search and rescue and medical evacuation all over Cape York and the Torres Strait.

### **Defence Driving Licence Scheme**

With the exception of Victoria and Northern Territory, Commonwealth, state and territory authorities have agreed to the implementation of a Defence Driving Licence Scheme (DDLS) for ADF personnel and eligible members of their families. Under the DDLS, the driving licences of both personnel and their families are recognised throughout Australia, and thus there is no requirement to change a driving licence solely because of a transfer interstate. However, on expiry, licences need to be renewed in the current state or territory of residence.

Defence Force personnel are not required to register their motor vehicles immediately upon entry to Queensland, and are allowed to retain interstate registration until the registration expires. However, once the interstate registration expires, vehicles are to be re-registered in Queensland.

Note: It is advised that you check your third-party eligibility with your current compulsory third-party insurer if you wish to retain your interstate registration.

### **Registration Requirements**

#### **■ Cars and Motorcycles**

In order to have your motor vehicle registered, you must have the following:

- completed application
- certificate of roadworthiness from an approved inspection station (most garages)
- compulsory third-party insurance for a period of 6 or 12 months
- proof of ownership (previous registration certificate)
- personal identification – either a Queensland driver's licence or two forms of identification, e.g. keycard and interstate licence
- gas certificate must not be more than 30 days old for vehicles fitted with gas.

If upon moving to Weipa, you are only using your private vehicle around the township, you may be eligible for the "Restricted Area Concessional Registration Application". This concession

significantly reduces your registration fees, however if you wish to drive out of the Weipa township you may apply for a permit which would last for 2 weeks and costs \$20. The application form is available the Department of Transport.

You must present your vehicle at Department of Justice, Magistrates Court Office Phone (07) 40699999 Business Hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 4.30pm, for inspection. Proof of current interstate registration is required. Registration costs are determined by the number of cylinders (for most vehicles).

#### ■ **Driver's Licence**

To change over to a Queensland driver's licence, produce identification including name, address and signature. Membership cards are not accepted for licensing purposes. If your licence has expired, Queensland Transport must obtain traffic history and licence details from the issuing state.

Items suitable for identification are:

- birth certificate (documentation is required if name has changed, e.g. through marriage)
- current interstate driver's licence
- signature, e.g. keycard
- proof of residency, e.g. electricity or telephone account or electoral enrolment advice.

## Pet Care

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Proper care for your pets in the tropics is essential. Ensure that your pet has enough drinking water each day and that the water is changed to prevent the spread of dengue fever. Your pet can develop 'hot spots' in the hotter months, and veterinary care is recommended for treating the condition.

Veterinary surgeons recommend that you vaccinate your dog each year and provide heartworm prevention medicine. For cats, vaccinate for feline enteritis and cat flu.

The cane toad is particularly nasty. Dogs and children have been known to attack or play with cane toads; please discourage such actions. The toad will defend itself by secreting a poisonous milky fluid from the back of its head. This poison can be lethal to dogs and cats, and can cause sickness in children. If poisoning does occur, seek medical advice immediately.

## **Dog Owners**

Dogs over 6 months of age must be registered at the Town Office. No person shall keep more than two dogs unless a permit was issued prior to November 1984. Dogs are to be kept under effective control at all times. Dogs found wandering will be impounded and the Town Office may direct that fencing be provided to ensure dogs are kept on premises where necessary. Dogs impounded will only be released on proof of registration and payment of pound fees.

Full details are available from the Town Office.

Phone: (07) 4030 9400

<http://www.weipatownoffice.com>

## **Vet Service**

Tableland Veterinary Service (Visiting Vet check for surgery day)

Evans Landing, Weipa

Tel: (07) 4069 7460

After Hours: (07) 4091 4780

Animals are flown out for surgery (costs include the flight & freight).

# Local Emergency Information

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## **Tropical Cyclones**

Cyclones are a very real threat in north Queensland. Forward planning will help to ensure your own safety and that of your family, loved ones, pets and assets. Cairns Regional Council (Internet: [www.cairns.qld.gov.au/cairns/council/services/cyclone](http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/cairns/council/services/cyclone)) provides a cyclone booklet that can be viewed or downloaded. The local community organisation has cyclone disaster plans in place.

### **■ Understanding Cyclone Advice**

The Cyclone Warning Centre in Brisbane uses radar, satellites, weather stations and sophisticated computer modelling to monitor cyclone activity. Depending on when a cyclone could potentially reach the coast, a Tropical Cyclone Watch or Tropical Cyclone Warning is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology. According to the bureau, the best source of information is the radio and on the internet at Internet: [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

You cannot stop a cyclone, and you cannot wait until it hits to learn what to do. It is vital that you make sure your whole family is prepared.

Points to remember:

- cyclones do not always give hours of warning
- do not trust your own weather observations
- follow official warnings
- beware of the 'eye' – you may feel reassured, but soon the wind will be back in full force, from the opposite direction
- stay protected
- do not go outdoors

#### ■ **Random Paths**

Cyclones can change course, mark time, or even loop-the-loop. Keep listening to your radio after the cyclone has passed, as it may double back. Keep listening to your radio after the Cyclone Warning has been issued.

#### ■ **Cyclone Storm Surge and Storm Tide**

Storm surge is caused by a combination of low pressure and cyclone winds piling seawater up against a sloping coastal shelf to produce a storm tide (above predicted tide). The rising water floods inland over low-lying areas, normally above tidal influences. Fortunately, storm surge and tides do not happen very often, but you must always be ready. When they do occur, they can be more life-threatening than strong winds.

#### ■ **Emergency/Evacuation Kits**

It is best to prepare a waterproof emergency kit before a cyclone is present, as there is often panic-buying and batteries, radios, torches etc. soon become scarce.

The kit should contain:

- portable radio with spare batteries
- tins of food and a can opener
- water and water containers
- torches and spare batteries
- candles, fuel or gas lamp
- matches
- spare clothes and sturdy, protective footwear
- self-contained cooking gear
- first aid kit
- essential medication.

Power will usually go out during a cyclone and may be disconnected for some days. Ensure you make suitable plans for this, especially having a phone in the house that does not require electricity. Water supply may also be interrupted.

### **Defence Members' Responsibilities**

Defence members are required to return to work on declaration of a Tropical Cyclone Watch. In order to minimise the impact of a cyclone, Defence families are expected to prepare themselves well in advance of the cyclone season. Defence families need to prepare by undertaking some simple procedures that are well-documented in brochures available from the council and emergency services.

#### **■ Before the cyclone season:**

- ensure an emergency kit is prepared and in good working order
- clear property of loose items that could cause damage by being blown around in a high wind
- in case of storm tide warning, know your nearest safe high-area.

#### **■ Upon a cyclone warning:**

- listen to your radio and TV for further warnings
- board up or tape windows
- store loose articles inside the house
- lock up pets
- fill water containers, including the bathtub
- fuel car and place under cover
- get some cash out of the bank.

#### **■ On warning of a local evacuation:**

- switch off electricity, gas etc.
- collect emergency evacuation kit
- follow instructions.

#### **■ When the cyclone comes:**

- stay inside
- shelter in the strongest part of the house
- protect yourself with a mattress, blankets etc.
- anchor yourself to strong fixtures (such as water pipes) or get under a strong table
- beware of the calm 'eye' of the storm – remain indoors until advised that the cyclone has passed.

#### **■ After the cyclone:**

- do not go outside until advised officially, or you are positive the cyclone has passed
- listen to your radio

- if you have to evacuate, do not go home until advised.

### **Emergency Contacts:**

Police, Ambulance & Fire: 000

Weipa/Napranum Cyclone Control Centre (Weipa Police Station) : (07) 4069 9119

Rio Tinto Fire and Rescue Service: (07) 4069 8444

Radio Station Frequency: Rebel FM 96.1, ABC 1044AM

Automated Telephone Message for Cyclone Information – 1300 659 212

Bureau of Meteorology Website Current QLD Cyclone Warnings - <http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/>

Scherger are on base in the event of a cyclone.

# Important Numbers

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## **Defence Services**

### ■ **DCO Cairns Reception**

Tel: (07) 4053 9300

### ■ **REDLO North Queensland**

Tel: (07) 4753 6532

### ■ **DHA Reception**

Tel: (07) 4040 2400

### ■ **24-hour DHA Maintenance Line**

Tel: 1300 366 615

## **Other Services**

### ■ **Family Information Network for Defence (FIND)**

Tel: 1800 020 031

### ■ **Defence Health**

Tel: 1800 335 425

### ■ **Credit Union**

Tel: (07) 4035 8345

### ■ **All-hours Support Line**

Tel: 1800 628 036

■ **National Welfare Coordination  
Centre (NWCC)**

Tel: 1800 801 026

■ **Defence Equity Advice**

Tel: 1800 644 247

# Maps

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Weipa Street Map:

[http://www.weipatownoffice.com/town\\_street\\_map.pdf](http://www.weipatownoffice.com/town_street_map.pdf)

Aerial Map of Weipa:

[http://www.weipatownoffice.com/aerial\\_view\\_2001.pdf](http://www.weipatownoffice.com/aerial_view_2001.pdf)

Weipa Peninsular:

[http://www.weipatownoffice.com/weipa\\_peninsular\\_east\\_weipa\\_haul.pdf](http://www.weipatownoffice.com/weipa_peninsular_east_weipa_haul.pdf)

Aerial Map of Napranum:

<http://www.weipatownoffice.com/napranumc1.pdf>