



Public Service (Defence) Determination 2000/2

I, MAL PEARCE, Director General Personnel Policy and Employment Conditions, Defence Personnel Executive, make this Determination under subsection 24 (1) of the *Public Service Act 1999*.

Dated 19 January 2000

M. PEARCE
Director General
Personnel Policy and Employment Conditions
Defence Personnel Executive

1 Citation

This Determination may be cited as Public Service (Defence) Determination 2000/2, Woomera Education Assistance.

2 Commencement

This Determination commences on 24 January 2000.

3 Purpose

The purpose of this Determination is to assist employees who are employed at Woomera with the added cost of the final 2 years of secondary education for their children.

4 Application

This Determination applies to an employee who:

- (a) is employed at Woomera at the commencement of this Determination; and
- (b) subject to clause 7, continues to be employed at Woomera; and
- (c) has a dependent child who:
 - (i) is under 20; and
 - (ii) normally lives with the employee at Woomera; and
 - (iii) is in the final 2 years of secondary education available in South Australia; and
 - (iv) is not entitled to any other form of education assistance provided by the Department of Defence; and
- (d) incurs costs for the child's education at a school not located at Woomera for the whole or part of the final 2 years of secondary education.

5 Definitions

In this Determination:

employee means a person employed under the *Public Service Act 1999* as an Australian Public Service employee in the Department of Defence.

spouse includes a person who is living with the employee as a spouse on a genuine domestic basis although not legally married to the employee.

tuition expenses means:

- (a) tuition and sports fees levied by the school; and
- (b) fees levied by the school for travel by a child in a specially designated school bus; and
- (c) other fees and charges levied by the school and required to be paid so that a child may attend the school, but excluding boarding fees; and
- (d) any Government taxes levied on the fees.

6 Reimbursement of tuition and boarding expenses

- (1) The Secretary may approve the reimbursement of reasonable tuition and boarding expenses incurred by the employee during the final 2 years of secondary education of a child mentioned in clause 4.

- (2) For subclause (1), the Secretary must have regard to:
 - (a) the number of weeks (excluding periods of school vacation) the child is at school and the boarding establishment (if separate from the school); and
 - (b) whether any other relatives of the child are at the same locality as the school or boarding establishment; and
 - (c) any scholarship or other assistance received for the education of the child; and
 - (d) whether the child is repeating one of the final 2 years of secondary education; and
 - (e) the subjects and facilities offered by the school in comparison with the subjects and facilities that are offered by the senior secondary education section of the Woomera school; and
 - (f) the child's school history, educational needs and general welfare.
- (3) The amount of tuition expenses approved by the Secretary under subclause (1) must not be more than \$9,123 a year.
- (4) The amount of boarding expenses approved by the Secretary under subclause (1) must not be more than:
 - (a) for the boarding of the child at the school or another establishment — \$7,627 a year; or
 - (b) for the boarding of the child with relatives or friends — \$4,410 a year.

7 Cessation of assistance

- (1) If the employee is transferred to a new locality and the Secretary considers that an immediate cessation of assistance would prejudice the child's educational progress, the Secretary may approve the continuation of the assistance for a period up to the end of the current school term.
- (2) For subclause (1), the Secretary must have regard to:
 - (a) the child's school history, educational needs and general welfare; and
 - (b) any other factor relevant to the child's educational progress.

8 Fares for child travelling to undertake schooling

If clause 6 applies, the Secretary must approve the reimbursement of the reasonable cost of 1 return travel fare for the child who is travelling from Woomera to begin the school year at the new school.

9 Fares to accompany child to begin school

- (1) This clause applies if a child mentioned in clause 4 has not previously attended school as a boarder.
- (2) If:
 - (a) a child travels from Woomera for the final 2 years of secondary education; and
 - (b) the Secretary is satisfied that:
 - (i) the arrangements for the child's enrolment could not, with reasonable planning, have been made in conjunction with other travel at Commonwealth expense; and

- (ii) alternative arrangements for the child's enrolment by persons other than the employee or the employee's spouse would be severely detrimental to the child's welfare,

the Secretary may approve the reimbursement of the reasonable cost of a return travel fare of the employee or the employee's spouse.

- (3) For paragraph (2) (b), the Secretary must have regard to:
 - (a) the cost and duration of travel from Woomera; and
 - (b) the modes of transport available for travel between Woomera and the new school; and
 - (c) the availability of other persons who could undertake the necessary actions to effect the enrolment of the child; and
 - (d) any other factor relevant to the enrolment of the child as a boarder.

10 Reunion travel

- (1) This clause applies if the employee is not entitled to any other form of reunion assistance provided by the Department of Defence in relation to a child mentioned in clause 4.
- (2) The Secretary must authorise the reimbursement of the reasonable cost of 2 return travel fares a year for reunion visits with the child.
- (3) If the Secretary is satisfied that it is reasonable for an employee to be reimbursed for more than 2 return travel fares a year, the Secretary may authorise reimbursement for 1 additional return travel fare in the year.
- (4) For subclause (3), the Secretary must have regard to:
 - (a) the age and welfare of the child; and
 - (b) the cost and duration of travel to Woomera; and
 - (c) the modes of transport available for travel between Woomera and the new school; and
 - (d) any other opportunities that the employee or the employee's spouse may have to reunite with the child; and
 - (e) the likely period of separation that would occur in the absence of an additional reunion visit.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Public Service (Defence) Determination 2000/2

This Determination assists employees of the Department of Defence who are employed at Woomera with the added cost of the final 2 years of secondary education for their children as a result of a decision by the South Australian Department of Education to severely reduce the level of teaching service for the senior secondary education section of the school at Woomera.

The Determination provides for the Secretary to approve the reimbursement of reasonable tuition and boarding expenses incurred by the employee during the final 2 years of secondary education. Criteria are set out in the Determination assist the Secretary in the exercise of this discretion. Reunion visits by the child and other associated assistance are also provided by this Determination.

This Determination commences on 24 January 2000, to ensure that the assistance is in place for the commencement of the school year.

Authority: Subsection 24 (1) of the
Public Service Act 1999