



# Lateral Recruits

## Defence Member and Family Support



### Frequently asked questions

#### How does Australia's education system work?

Each state government manages the primary and high school systems within their state, providing funding and regulation. Public, private and religious education schools exist in each state, and while the curriculum taught in each state or school may vary slightly the overall learning areas remain nationally consistent.

You can find out more about children's schooling by visiting state-based education department websites for detailed information.

[Australian Capital Territory Education Directorate](#)

[New South Wales Department of Education](#)

[Northern Territory Department of Education](#)

[Queensland Department of Education and Training](#)

[South Australian Department for Education](#)

[Tasmanian Department of Education](#)

[Victorian Department of Education and Training](#)

[Western Australian Department of Education](#)

Discuss your child's admission into a school with the school's principal in order to assess their appropriate entry level.

There are universities in each state, funded by the federal government and governed independently. Course entry is determined by criteria outlined by the institution.

Each state also hosts vocational education and training (VET) or technical and further education (TAFE) systems, to prepare older children and adults for work in a career that does not need a university degree.

If family members have current qualifications they may gain recognition of their training and education to help locate employment—detailed information about how to do this can be found on the [australia.gov.au](http://australia.gov.au) website.

#### How can I help my child settle into a new school and country?

For personal assistance with helping your child settle into a new school and country, call the all-hours Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608.

[Defence Member and Family Support \(DMFS\)](#) provides information, resources and programs to help children settle into new schools.

Education Liaison Officers, or EDLOs, are available to assist families to support their children to make the transition from foreign



education systems to the Australian education system. Additionally, school based mentors support Defence children through the process of changing schools and times of parental absence.

Visit the [supporting Defence children](#) section of Defence Member and Family website for more information.

### Is childcare available in Australia?

Children within Defence families can receive priority of access to Defence childcare centres around Australia. Visit the DMFS website for further details.

### I'd like to know more about Australia's health system

Medicare is Australia's publicly funded health care system. Medicare funds affordable primary health care treatment for all Australian citizens and permanent residents. Detailed information and advice is found on the [Services Australia](#) website.

### What do I need to know about immunisation in Australia?

The [Department of Health Immunisation website](#) provides detailed information about Australia's immunisation program, and the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register is a national register that records vaccinations given to children under seven years of age. When you do move to Australia, be sure to bring all family members' vaccination records.

### What do I need to know about customs and quarantine?

The [Department of Home Affairs](#) website provides information for migrants and arriving travellers, including information about importing motor, recreational and other types of vehicles.

It is important to be aware that Australia has restrictions that apply to each state and territory in addition to national customs and quarantine restrictions.

### Can I bring our family pet to Australia?

The [Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment](#) provides information regarding

bringing pets into Australia. Note that different criteria apply to disability assistance dogs.

### What do I need to know about a driver's licence?

In Australia, laws and driving regulations differ from state to state. Some states require you to carry an international licence with your current foreign licence. Other states request you carry your current foreign driver's licence together with a formal translation of your licence into English.

As a general rule, you are able to drive in Australia, as a visitor, on a valid overseas driver's licence that covers the same vehicle class for a maximum of three months after arriving in Australia.

To find out more about the driving licence laws in each state, click on the relevant authorities below:

[Australian Capital Territory – Access Canberra](#)

[Transport for New South Wales](#)

[Northern Territory Transport](#)

[Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads](#)

[South Australia Driving and Transport](#)

[Tasmania Transport Services](#)

[Victoria VicRoads](#)

[Western Australia Department of Transport](#)

Defence Member and Family Support offers a wide range of support services to ADF members and their families.

For more information on this factsheet and other DMFS services visit our website or contact the all-hours Defence Member and Family Helpline.



1800 624 608



[memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au](mailto:memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au)



[defence.gov.au/members-families](http://defence.gov.au/members-families)



[DefenceMemberFamilySupport](#)



[DMFS\\_AusDefence](#)



[DMFS\\_AusDefence](#)



### **What do I need to know about civilian employment, skills and qualifications?**

Partners of Australian Defence Force members can access funding for education and employment services to enhance their career options and to help them to secure employment when posted with their partner, subject to certain ADF rules and policy.

Visit the [supporting Defence partners](#) section of the DMFS website for detailed information.

Partners of lateral recruits can apply once they arrive in Australia and their eligibility will be assessed against all the criteria set out in the guidelines.

From 1 January 2013, amendments to the Australian Citizenship Act 2007 allowed for exemption of the usual residence requirement for certain family members of overseas lateral recruits. Read more detail about this on the [Department of Home Affairs](#) website.

People who are educated overseas can gain recognition of their training and education to help them gain employment—detailed information about how to do this can be found on the [australia.gov.au](#) website.

### **What do I need to know about housing in Australia?**

[Defence Housing Australia](#) provides Australian Defence Force personnel with Defence related information.

The [Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme](#) assists current and former Australian Defence Force members and their families to achieve home ownership.

### **Where can I find out about mortgages and banking?**

There is a range of banking institutions in Australia—an internet search will help you find out the best option for you. There are also some Defence-specific banking options available:

[Defence Bank](#)

[Australian Military Bank](#)

### **How will my pension/retirement planning be effected by a move to Australia?**

Discuss this with your current employer and retirement fund and seek professional advice

from a financial planner before you commit to a move to Australia.

### **What's the weather like in Australia?**

Australian weather is varied and our climate ranges from tropical in the far north, to dry deserts in the centre of the country, mild coastal and mountain regions, to snow in the southern alps.

The [Bureau of Meteorology](#) provides weather forecasts, warnings and observations for all states of Australia. There is also information about climate, hydrology and other weather services.

### **What are the time zones in Australia?**

Australia has three different time zones and daylight savings time. Details can be found at [Australia.gov.au](#).

### **What is the exchange rate?**

Current Exchange rates as listed by the [Reserve Bank of Australia](#).

### **What about my personal commitments in my home country?**

All personal commitments are solely the member's responsibility and will not be fulfilled by the Australian Defence Force. For specific ADF military entitlement information visit the Department of Defence's [pay and conditions website](#).

Defence Member and Family Support offers a wide range of support services to ADF members and their families.

For more information on this factsheet and other DMFS services visit our website or contact the all-hours Defence Member and Family Helpline.



1800 624 608



[memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au](mailto:memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au)



[defence.gov.au/members-families](http://defence.gov.au/members-families)



[DefenceMemberFamilySupport](#)



[DMFS AusDefence](#)



[DMFS AusDefence](#)



Some examples of commitments the member is responsible for include:

- a decision to return home in the event of family member's death or illness,
- a relationship breakdown, or
- a need for family members to return to complete education or employment commitments.

### **What support is available for families of lateral recruits?**

DMFS offers a broad range of programs and services to all Defence families, which includes families of members recruited from outside of Australia.

Services provided by DMFS include support from a social worker, assistance for partners' education and employment, help with childcare, assistance for dependants with special needs, support for Defence community groups, help for families during crisis and emergency, education support for children, and assistance for members leaving the ADF.

In particular, we provide extensive support for families experiencing deployment and time apart and relocation due to posting. The DMFS website at <https://defence.gov.au/members-families> provides information on these support services and programs.

The best way to access any of the services provided by DMFS is to contact the all-hours Defence Member and Family Helpline at [memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au](mailto:memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au) or on 1800 624 608.

The Defence Member and Family Helpline operates 24-7 and is staffed by qualified human services professionals including social workers and psychologists. If you need support, help, or advice at any time contact or email the Member and Family Helpline. The Helpline also makes referrals to Defence Social Workers based in the regional offices.

Defence Member and Family Support offers a wide range of support services to ADF members and their families.

For more information on this factsheet and other DMFS services visit our website or contact the all-hours Defence Member and Family Helpline.



1800 624 608



[memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au](mailto:memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au)



[defence.gov.au/members-families](https://defence.gov.au/members-families)



[DefenceMemberFamilySupport](https://www.facebook.com/DefenceMemberFamilySupport)



[DMFS\\_AusDefence](https://www.instagram.com/DMFS_AusDefence)



[DMFS\\_AusDefence](https://twitter.com/DMFS_AusDefence)

