

DEFENCE SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP INC



NATIONAL E-NEWSLETTER JULY 2016

www.dsnsng.org.au 1800 037 674

ABN 68 090 485 608

aspenmedical

TOLL



WORD FROM NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Welcome to our July Newsletter.

My name is Kim Collins and I am the National Coordinator for the group.

The National Committee and the local coordinators in May attended our annual conference in Canberra.

The conference gives DSNSG coordinators the chance to get to know each other, train in special needs support, gain an insight into broader special needs issues and services.

Whilst in Canberra, the coordinators also have direct access to Defence policy and decision-makers. The dinner presents significant networking opportunities with Defence leaders, including CDF Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin and DCO Patron Gite Binskin.

Currently, there are over 20 local coordinators across Australia as the local face of the DSNSG. The networks and relationships that are established throughout the conference are an invaluable resource for them.

DSNSG works very closely with DCO to provide practical assistance to reduce the impact of relocation and minimise any interruption to specialist services that a dependant needs.

This conference saw Margaret Maher Canberra Local Coordinator presented an award for 10 years of service with DSNSG as a coordinator and also presented an award for serving a term on the National Committee.

The National Committee also inducted our new Coordinators:

Cherie Davis (Townsville) Caroline Robertson (Melbourne West) Kirsty Wilson (Melbourne North East) Staci Foot (Darling Downs) Linda Percy (Puckapunyal) Chelsea Young (Richmond) Renata Owens (Liverpool) Helen Taylor (Tindal) Danielle Thompson (Darwin) Rebecca Cant (Sale)



Margaret Maher Presented 10 year Award and Appreciation Award for fulfilling a term on the National Committee

DSNSG Annual Dinner presents significant networking opportunities with Defence leaders including CDF ACM Binskin and DCO Patron Gite Binskin.



National Committee: Kim Collins National Coordinator, Terry Fisk National Assistant Coordinator, Sandy Soulsby National Assistant Coordinator, Shannon Winkler National Communication and Membership Officer, Karen Dobbin National Treasurer.

Local Coordinators: Linda Percy, Chelsea Young, Staci Foot, Margaret Maher, Cherie Davis, Caroline Roberston, Kirsty Wilson, Laurie Coleman, Diana Simpson, Renata Owens, Amanda Hope, Sabrina Mejia, Sarah Pedrana, Melissa Pike, Helen Taylor, Caro Johnston, Danielle Simpson, Rebecca Cant



Inducted Coordinators by National Coordinator Kim Collins

Cherie Davis (Townsville) Caroline Robertson (Melbourne West) Kirsty Wilson (Melbourne North East) Staci Foot (Darling Downs) Linda Percy (Puckapunyal) Chelsea Young (Richmond) Renata Owens (Liverpool)



National Coordinator Kim Collins presenting Chris Grigsby from Defence Health an award of Appreciation for Outstanding Dedication to DSNSG for over 21 years.

National Executive Committee

National Coordinator/Secretary:

Kim Collins: national.coordinator@dsnsg.org.au 1800 037 674 / 0447851861

Programs run by National Coordinator: Family Emergency Care Plan: fecp@dsnsg.org.au , Posting Plans: national.coordinator@dsnsg.org.au

National Assistant Coordinator:

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Programs run by National Assistant: Drive Safe: drivesafe@dsnsg.org.au
Buddy Program: sandy.soulsby@dsnsg.org.au FYI (For Your Information):
fyi@dsnsg.org.au

National Assistant Coordinator:

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Programs run by National Assistant: Connecting Families:
events@dsnsg.org.au

National Treasurer:

Karen Dobbin: karen.dobbin@dsnsg.org.au 0425739384

Programs run by National Treasurer: Computers 4 Kids: computer4kids@dsnsg.org.au

National Memberships/Communication Officer:

Shannon Winkler: memberships@dsnsg.org.au 0428411006

Programs run by Memberships/Communication Officer: Parent to Parent Network: memberships@dsnsg.org.au



Local Coordinators



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Liverpool: Renata Owens:

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Nowra: Juanita Visser:

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Wagga Wagga: Melissa Pike:

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Williamtown: Laurie Coleman:

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SA

Adelaide: Emma Duyzer:

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DSNSG Programs



APS Benefits – Grants (Supporting Partner)

APS Benefits grants can assist families with Special Needs to obtain equipment or other particular requirements relating to the person with special needs. Equipment, Diagnosis appointments etc.

As a grant, you do not have to pay any of this money back, so it is wise to sit down and really work out what you would like to have this grant help out with and put it all together as one.

To find out more about or to apply for this program please email

national.coordinator@dsnsg.org.au



IPADS 4 Kids – (DSNSG Program funded by Defence Health, Supporting Partner)

IPADS 4 Kids is a program where we can assist with the purchase of an iPad for families to use to support their child or children with special needs, with their education and everyday living skills. An iPad is the best form of assistance as it is portable, lightweight; it can be taken everywhere and takes up minimal space.

Families are able to download great applications suitable for the individual needs of their child. There are many applications to assist with behaviour, motor skills, learning, literacy, and can be essential for communication.

NOTE – There is a co-contribution fee that is payable to DSNSG from the families that access this program

To find out more about or to apply for this program please email

computer4kids@dsnsg.org.au



Family Emergency Care Plans – FECP (DSNSG Program)

The DSNSG Family and Emergency Care Plan is a tool that can be used by Defence Families with special needs to help assist with the care of their loved one. It is based on existing type Care Plans and Health Care Records but differs in that the Family and Emergency Care Plan will be tailored to meet the specific requirements of Defence families, i.e. mobility and deployment.

The Family Emergency Care Plan is primarily to be used for families who have the serving member deployed or away on Duty (out field, on courses, on duty etc.) but is available to all our Special Needs families, **free of charge**.

For families where the member is absent on duty, this means that the primary carer is left alone to care for the person with special needs. We have found via past experience, that if that primary carer is hurt or suddenly taken ill then there is no readily available information in place to assist for when another person has to come in and provide immediate care to that special needs person i.e. what the normal daily routine is, what medication should be given, when and much more.

For families who use respite, a Family Emergency Care Plan would solve the problem of constantly repeating information when a new support worker is put into the home or for emergency care. The information is then readily available for the new support worker to read.

The DSNSG Family and Emergency Care Plan laid out in a folder format. These forms are specifically tailored to meet the requirements of our Defence Force families.

In addition, the following emergency items are also included: - Carer ID wallet card (identifying that the person is a carer) - Sticker to go on window of car to identify that someone in the car has special needs and may need additional assistance/support in the event of an accident.

The program coordinator will hold a copy of all forms that the families have filled out, this is so if an emergency service rings the 1800 037 674 number quoting the Reference number, we can easily track down the correct forms and let them know the Emergency Care plan for your family and help the person who will be caring for your family in the case of emergency.

NOTE - ALL FORMS WILL BE KEPT PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL AND ONLY THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR WILL HAVE THIS INFORMATION.

To find out more about or to apply for this program please email

fecp@dsnsg.org.au

DRIVE SAFE - (DSNSG Program funded by Aspen Medical, Supporting Partner)

Our Drive Safe Program is to assist and help members of our DSNSG families with ASD, ADHD, and Asperger's to gain confidence and self-esteem when learning to drive (16 years and above).

This program was developed as we saw a need for teenagers and or older adults with disabilities needing specialised training and assistance to gain their driving licence.

Having a licence will give them a sense of responsibility and make job hunting more accessible to these young men and women and in turn help reduce the financial strain of having a special need.

To find out more about or to apply for this program please email

drivesafe@dsnsg.org.au



For Your Information – FYI (DSNSG Program)

FYI is a program that provides the opportunity for families to attend workshops or guest speakers at a greatly reduced cost.

DSNSG typically charges members a fee towards the cost of the workshop with DSNSG paying the rest of the full ticket price.

Due to the lack of formal and informal support available when families have to relocate, we understand this can place extra pressures which compound the stress with families. The aim of this program is to assist families in networking within their own peer support structure to gather information and ideas to ultimately decrease the isolation and stress that can often affect families with Special Needs.

The National Committee gathers information in relation to various workshops that may be happening around Australia but sometimes it is hard to keep up to date. We do appreciate information in regards to Education sessions, Seminars and Workshops that may be happening in your area. If you know of one happening in your area please provide us with as much notice as possible to ensure that we can send information to families with enough time to purchase tickets.

Details can be sent to fyi@dsnsg.org.au



National Parent to Parent Network – (DSNSG Program)

National Parent to Parent Network is designed to assist parents contacting other parents who have children with similar needs. It can also work with a spouse contacting another spouse who has a similar or same special need.

It works in two ways – formal contact and informal contact.

1. Formal Contact

This is where a family may ask if someone else in the group has similar special needs and whether they could make contact with them. The National Coordinator or the Membership / Coordinator (or other NC member if requested) can then ring the other family and ask them if they are prepared to help out. Phone numbers are then exchanged and the families talk to each other.

Formal contact can also be done by the local Coordinator, who might ring one of their families to help out another one of their families.

It is very important that confidentiality is maintained and that phone numbers or details cannot be given out without permission of the family concerned.

2. Informal Contact

This informal contact is done via the DSNSG Facebook page where a family might put up a request for information and other families respond. There is no intervention by the National Committee or Local Area Coordinators in this case.

The National Parent to Parent Network has the ability to provide support and information, along with increasing the networks of the families involved. It also helps to reduce stress and anxiety as the family knows that they are not alone in dealing with the issues they have.

**To find out more about or to apply for this program please email
memberships@dsnsg.org.au**



POSTING PLANS – (DSNSG Program)

Posting Plans are designed to assist a family with their posting in relation to the requirements of the person who has special needs. The plan is put together by the National Coordinator in consultation with the family and may cover:

1. Travel
2. Housing
3. Housing modifications
4. Early Intervention Programs
5. Schooling
6. Equipment
7. Support Groups
8. Respite
9. Post School Options
10. Employment
11. Medications
12. Medical and Hospital
13. Therapy
14. DCO SN Policy – Assessment of Assistance on Posting (or Recognition of Special Needs)

The purpose of a Posting Plan is to identify and look at what is required in the new location for the person with special needs and how to access or implement what is required so that the transition from the old location to the new location is made more smoothly. The National Coordinator manages the Posting Plan, helps the family identify and locate appropriate services and where necessary seeks additional advice and support on behalf of the family.

To find out more about or to apply for this program please email

national.coordinator@dsnsg.org.au



Connecting Families – (DSNSG Program)

The Connecting Families program is a way of bringing families in local groups together for an event, for the purpose of families increasing their networks, peer support, information sharing and assistance, thus empowering families more.

As compared to local family days or activities which only included families within one local group and the event organised by the local Coordinator, the Connecting Families program is organised and coordinated through the National Committee. Each event is subsidised by DSNSG with most events being 50% off the A Reserve price. In some cases and if there are sufficient numbers, a bus may be made available for families having to travel a long distance to participate i.e. Canberra to Sydney.

The Connecting Families Program is now well entrenched in the DSNSG with several major events being funded across the year. In the past families have seen been Disney on Ice, Walking with Dinosaurs, Annie the Musical, Wicked and much more. Areas that events cover are:

Brisbane based events cover: Brisbane, Gold Coast, Amberley and Darling Downs

Sydney based events cover: All Sydney, Canberra, Nowra and Williamstown

Melbourne based events cover: All Melbourne, Puckapunyal, Mornington, Sale and Albury/Wodonga

Perth based events cover: All Perth and Rockingham

Adelaide based events cover: All Adelaide and Woodside

National Committee, Coordinators or families are able to suggest an event and if the National Committee approve, then details and Expressions of Interests are sent out to families. If sufficient EOI are received, then families are notified that the event will go ahead and are forwarded payment details. Once payment has been made, tickets are confirmed and sent to families.

As Connecting Families is a group event, events are not approved if only a couple of people are interested, as that defeats the overall purpose of the program.

**To find out more about or to apply for this program please email
events@dsnsg.org.au**

DEFENCE COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

Defence families get help to find childcare

Defence has launched a pilot program for individual case management service for childcare placement to support ADF families when they move to a new area or change their care arrangements, such as when returning from maternity leave.

Defence childcare service provider, Mission Australia, will use specialist Early Learning staff to support families who need help to find appropriate childcare, particularly in areas where there is limited capacity in the community.

Early Learning staff will negotiate with all local registered childcare providers, including Family Day Care and before and after school care. Consideration is also given to individual family circumstances, including any special needs of children, home and work locations, and the transport corridors between them.

Family support manager for Early Learning, Kim Freckelton, who has worked in childcare for more than 20 years and as a centre manager for the last seven, has been helping parents with childcare enquiries. She has already been able to use her experience and industry knowledge to help several families to find childcare solutions.

"We want to use our experience to give parents the support they need with detailed options that allow them to decide which childcare service best suits their family," said Kim.

"Defence families are so positive and professional about postings and our support service should help smooth the transition to their new location."

"It's one less thing to sort out when they're moving to areas where childcare is hard to find."

The pilot program is designed to support all ADF families across Australia including the Base's civilian personnel in some regional locations, such as Geraldton and Alice Springs. The placement assistance service is free. However, normal childcare fees will apply for any options selected by families.

DCO has also a range of other programs to support the availability of childcare services to Defence families who might face difficulties in sourcing childcare, including support for families with special needs.

Families can call the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608 or see the Defence Community Organisation website for details.

www.defence.gov.au/dco



Families with special needs are on the move

ADF families around the country are now planning for their next posting. Defence families who have dependants with special needs, should be already talking to Defence Community Organisation (DCO) about practical assistance and support to reduce the impact of relocation and minimise any interruption to specialist services that the dependant needs.

Once your dependant is recognised by Defence, you may be entitled to receive assistance in the event of a posting. For example, where it's essential for the dependant to visit the new location before posting, DCO can cover accommodation and travel costs for the dependant and one family member. This is only granted where it's not possible to make arrangements from the old location or there's a requirement for face to face contact in the new location.

Where the dependant has special housing needs, Defence Housing Australia may be able to provide assistance with allocation or modification of housing in the new location, and accommodation while in transit. Visit www.dha.gov.au for more information.

In order to receive any of the support available, you will first need to have your dependant with special needs formally recognised by Defence. Then, before you move, you will need to apply for an assessment of assistance to determine what the dependant requires and what support Defence may provide in the new location.

To apply, fill out the relevant [form](#) on the DCO website for the service you require and submit it along with all supporting documentation to the [Defence Family Helpline](#).

For more information or assistance with your application, contact the Defence Family Helpline on **1800 624 608**. There is also a CD-ROM available called 'Guidance to assist in your Special Needs application' which can be ordered through the Helpline or collected from your local [DCO Area Office](#).

You can also read the [guidelines and eligibility criteria](#).

Tutoring Assistance

A range of financial support is available to help minimise disruption to schooling caused by posting. The aim is to provide the student with educational stability or limited interim assistance to help avoid or overcome any immediate difficulties with education or emotional wellbeing as a result of relocating.

Tutoring

We may reimburse fees for tutoring required to fill any gaps in understanding or curriculum caused by changing schools. Students may be entitled to up to 14 weeks of tutoring in any subject that has been identified by the school as representing a gap in learning. This applies to primary and secondary students, within the first 18 months of enrolment at the new school.

Boarding school allowance

You may choose to have your child attend boarding school, so they do not have to relocate with you and disrupt their education. In this instance, where the child is in the critical years of schooling (years 9-12), you can access financial assistance for the compulsory tuition fees and accommodation costs of the school.

Tertiary accommodation

If your dependant is studying at a tertiary institution, and their chosen course is not available in the new posting location, financial assistance is available for accommodation costs for the dependant to live near or at the tertiary institution. This applies only to full-time undergraduate students and is capped at a maximum of three years' assistance.

Students with special needs

Practical assistance is available for special needs students. This includes assessment, therapy, tuition and additional support where students had received these services in

their old location and aren't able to access them at their new posting. See the section on [special needs dependants](#) for more information. Special needs dependants may also be entitled to reimbursement of private schooling costs, if a necessary special program is only available at a non-government school.

Scholarship loss

If a student has to give up an education scholarship or bursary due to changing schools, we may pay their educational costs to the value of that scholarship.

Reunion travel

If your child is studying at a location distant from your posting, you may access funds towards the child's travel expenses to come to your location for a reunion. The child must already be receiving education assistance, and will be entitled to one return journey each calendar year.

For more information about this program, contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on **1800 624 608**



The APS Benefits Group has been providing defence members and their families with access to professional and financial services for over 110 years. We support the Defence Special Needs Support Group by funding projects, providing benevolent grants to defence families in need and funding the Christmas parties for DSNSG families Australia wide.

We are an Australian owned, membership based not-for-profit organisation, dedicated to providing quality professional and financial services to our members/clients at 'fair' prices. Our aim is to meet your needs right through life – from cradle to grave!

Whether its tax, accounting, financial planning, a will or estate planning, a loan, any type of insurance, the peace of mind of a funeral benefit, or a fixed term investment – we have the range and resources to make sure you can get what you need.

We are your lifetime partner in achieving your financial goals and meeting your professional needs. Whether you are in Darwin, or Rockingham, Hastings or Townsville, you are being cared for by a team of experienced and committed staff who aim to deliver outstanding customer service and assistance.

We encourage all defence families to become members. For more information please visit www.apsbenefitsgroup.com.au or call us on 1300 131 809.



Wa different kind of uniform? You're still our kind of member.

Navy Health has been providing not-for-profit health cover to the wider Defence community for 60 years. It doesn't matter whether you wear the Navy, Army or Air Force uniform; we're here for you.

As a committed Defence Force health fund, Navy Health provides cover for the families of serving personnel and then covers the serving member once they have discharged. The best part is that once you have been eligible, i.e. served full-time, in reserves, etc. you are able to join Navy Health at any time in your life!

The membership eligibility extends to the eligible person's immediate family - so if you have ever served or been a reservist, your children, parents, brothers, sisters, and grandparents can join too!

To further show their commitment to the ADF, Navy Health offers all serving families tailored military covers, a 10% discount and no waiting periods on discharge. Furthermore, if you or a family member is an active Reservist, you will also get the 10% discount (conditions apply – see navyhealth.com.au).

To find out more, go Navy Health Website or phone 1300 306 289 for a no obligation discussion on how you can benefit with Navy Health.



Household goods removals uplift date on or after 1st March 2016?

For all members and their families who are relocating at Commonwealth expense in the coming months, there has been a change to the Toll Warranty Scheme for loss or damage to household goods incurred during a removal. The change applies to domestic removals where the goods have been uplifted on or after 1st March 2016 including consignments uplifted from storage.

The Warranty Scheme has been changed to allow for new replacement cover to be applied to items which fall **within predefined categories and age limits**. In cases where more than minor damage to an item has occurred, members will be supplied with a new replacement item if Toll Transitions determines that repair of the old item is not economical and the item is eligible for replacement in accordance with a table (see below) of age-based item inclusions. **The existing like-for-like replacement or compensation cover will continue to apply to items which fall outside the specified age limits.**

Not every item that sustains damage will be replaced with a new item or compensation paid at new value. In the first instance damaged items will be repaired where practicable and compensation paid for minor damage. Read Toll's "**Your Defence Relocation Guide - Version 9**" and answers to **FAQs** available at www.tolltransitions.com.au/defence for full details of the **Toll Warranty Scheme**.

1. an electrical item with a new replacement value of \$500 or more - Examples: Television, Surround Sound Audio System, Vacuum Cleaner
within 10 years of the removal uplift date new-for-old. 10 years or more before the removal uplift date: like-for-like.
2. an electrical item with a new replacement value of less than \$500 - Examples: Computer Monitor, Kettle, Small Television
within 5 years of the removal uplift date new-for-old. 5 years or more before the removal uplift date: like-for-like.
3. an electrical white-good - Examples: Refrigerator, Freezer, Microwave, Washing Machine, Dryer
within 15 years of the removal uplift date new-for-old. 15 years or more before the removal uplift date: like-for-like.
4. a furniture item - Examples: Bed, Dining Table, Chest of Drawers, Lounge Suite
within 10 years of the removal uplift date new-for-old. 10 years or more before the removal uplift date: like-for-like.
5. other items - Examples: Picture frames, bicycles, BBQ, crockery, plastic tubs
within 7 years of the removal uplift date new-for-old. 7 years or more before the removal uplift date: like-for-like.

My Baby Support Program

Our commitment to your family

Pregnancy is an exciting time. Whether it's your first or fifth, your health and that of your little one is our concern too. That's why we've launched MyBaby for extra care during your pregnancy, your baby's birth and beyond. It's a program structured on expert advice, tailored content and practical ante and postnatal support. This is a unique program that is available at: no cost to our ADF and ex-serving members discounted price to all other Defence Health members.

More for ADF members If you're on the ADF Total Package we have even more support for you. You can receive extra support with a range of maternity support phone-coaching programs. And there's something for your partner too, with help to adjust to the emotional and physical changes when a little one joins the family.

Standard program features You can access a 12-month subscription to leading antenatal and early parenting portal, Nourish, with access to eBooks, audio and video tutorials on breastfeeding and settling Tailored web, blog and brochure information.

Nourish online portal

Online ante-natal and postnatal learning provider, Nourish, covers all aspects of the maternity journey. You can access a range of content including:

Articles from health and wellbeing experts

eBooks covering pregnancy health and fitness, childbirth and breastfeeding

More than three hours of in-depth video tutorials

covering antenatal and postnatal health and fitness, labour and birth preparation, breastfeeding and infant sleep

13 podcast audio lessons including two guided meditations and a 'soothing sounds' track to help your baby sleep.

Members on the ADF Total Package can access a range of maternity support phone-coaching programs provided by Remedy Healthcare to assist you during pregnancy and after the birth of your baby.

In each program your qualified maternity support clinician is available to offer you guidance, encouragement and practical support.

ADF Total Package – coaching support

The program is based on the Australian Clinical Practice Guidelines and an advisory panel of medical specialists which complements the care of your doctor.

Contact Us

Phone 1800 335 425 Monday to Thursday 8:30 am to 8:00 pm AEDT/AEST Friday 8:30 am to 6:00 pm AEDT/AEST

Web [defencehealth.com.au /DefenceHealth](http://defencehealth.com.au/DefenceHealth)
healthhq.defencehealth.com.au

Email mybaby@defencehealth.com.au

Post/Street Address PO Box 7518 Melbourne,
Victoria 3004 Level 4, 380 St Kilda Road
Melbourne, Victoria 3004



FREE Defence – Related Events

Darwin—Flypasts of Mindil Markets and RAAF Darwin Open Day

Exercise Pitch Black 2016 will feature 115 aircraft from around the globe including participants from Australia, Canada, France (New Caledonia), Germany, Indonesia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and the United States.

Flypast & Handling Display– Mindil Beach, Darwin 5-6pm Thursday 11th of Aug 2016

Several Australian and International Military Aircraft will be performing flypast at Mindil Beach, followed by a RAAF F/A-18 Hornet Handling display (subject to operational availability).

Pitch Black Open Day—RAAF Base Darwin 9am-4pm Saturday 13th August 2016

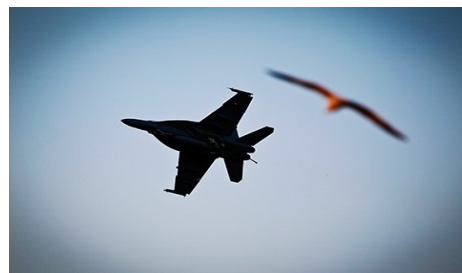
Free family event!! Get up close and personal with Australian and International military aircraft.

- Food Stalls
- Rides
- Interactive exhibits and activities
- Puppies and Military dog displays
- Air Force band Performance

(No ATM facilities on site. Glass bottles not permitted. Smoke-and alcohol-free event. No animals allowed on site, unless registered assistance dogs.)

Visit <http://airforce.gov.au/Pitch-black-16/Public-events/?RAAF-4/Ly6cXDRjwte+wN4xvdQcVrHTHNUxDB>

for further details including map and access information.





T150 Defence Air Show and Open Day

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) has a long association with the people of Townsville having been part of the community since World War II. RAAF is therefore proud to be taking part in Townsville's 150th celebrations by staging an action packed weekend both in the air and on the ground.

In conjunction with the Townsville City Council, Air Force will stage the Defence Air Show on Saturday, 15 October 2016 and RAAF Base Townsville will be open to the public on Sunday, 16 October, 2016. Both the Air Show and Open Day will be FREE to the public as a way of thanking Townsville and the people of North Queensland for their support of Defence.

T150 Defence Force Air Show (The Strand Foreshore)

The sky over Townsville's The Strand foreshore will be abuzz with aircraft for the Defence Air Show which will commence at around 2pm on Saturday, 15 October. This aviation spectacular will feature a range of Air Force's latest aircraft in addition to iconic historic aircraft and warbirds from the past. The flying programme for the Air Show will also be published closer to the event. All aircraft are subject to operational requirements, weather and aircraft availability and may change. The Air Show will be followed by the Townsville Bulletin Sky Show which will commence after dusk and feature breathtaking fireworks that will ignite the sky. More information on the Townsville Bulletin Sky Show is available on the Townsville City Council website.

T150 RAAF Base Townsville Open Day

Get a close and personal insight into one of the Air Force's most important forward operating bases, RAAF Base Townsville, on Sunday, 16 October. Entry to RAAF Base Townsville will be via the Ingham Road/Duckworth Street entrance. Gates will open at 10am with the Open Day concluding around 3pm.

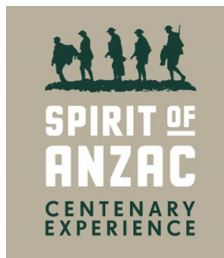
There will be FREE parking available with signs and parking attendants giving directions on the day. The Open Day is a family friendly event. There will be fairground type rides and other activities for children to enjoy. Pack a picnic or buy lunch from one of the many food and beverage stalls at the Open Day.

A number of military and historic aircraft involved in the Air Show will be on static display for the Open Day. There will be no flying displays. However, some aircraft may depart at the conclusion of the Open Day. A wide variety of equipment used by members of the RAAF to support Air Operations will be showcased as well as interactive displays.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RoyalAustralianAirForce/>

Twitter (#T150AirShow, #T150OpenDay and #AusAirForce): @Aus_AirForce

Instagram (#T150AirShow, #T150OpenDay and #AusAirForce): http://instagram.com/aus_airforce



The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience

Cairns 14 – 20 Aug 2016 ; **Townsville** 2 – 11 Sep 2016 ; **Darwin** 17 – 24 Oct 2016

Port Augusta 8 – 14 Nov 2016 ; **Perth** 27 Nov – 10 Dec 2016 ; **Bunbury** Jan 2017

Kalgoorlie Jan – Feb 2017 ; **Geelong** Feb 2017 ; **Orange** Mar 2017 ; **Newcastle** Mar 2017 ; **Sydney** Apr 2017

The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience is the flagship community project of the Australian Government's Anzac Centenary national programme. The Experience allows Australians living in cities and regional areas around the country the opportunity to see first-hand an extensive collection of military artefacts and interpretive materials. The exhibition tells the story of Australia on the eve of the First World War, and follows the footsteps of our sailors, soldiers, airmen and nurses throughout the campaign and beyond. The Experience is driven by Australian stories and more than 200 artefacts from the Australian War Memorial, and is highly experiential, with interactive technology employed throughout.

The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience is a **FREE** event, but booking is essential, as places are limited. Tickets are only available online and can't be arranged at the venue. The experience normally takes around 60 minutes to complete, but there is no time limit.

Audio Guide

The audio guide plays a major role in the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience. All visitors will receive an iPod Touch and headphones upon arrival for use during the Experience. The guide is set up so that there is no need to touch it at all to receive the automatic narration.

Accessibility

The Experience has been designed to cater to visitors of varying abilities, and is wheelchair and hearing-impaired friendly. A written guide in lieu of the iPod is available. There are no stairs and only mild inclines within the Experience although other parts of the venue have stairs or accessible ramps. Prior to visiting, please contact us at enquiries@spiritofanzac.gov.au should you have any specific concerns. The on-site safety guide details the areas that may cause alarm due to noise, imagery, lighting and confined spaces.

The Experience is open to the general public and, while volunteers and security personnel will be present on-site, children must be supervised at all times.

See the website for further information or to book your tickets:

<http://www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/>