

# Trinity College

## Defence Transition Team Information for Families



Trinity College has a Defence School Transition Aide (DSTA) and a Defence Transition Mentor (DTM) that work across North, South and Senior schools. The roles were established in recognition that some Defence Force children experience difficulties transitioning into and out of a school upon posting or during parental absences due to deployment, exercises or courses.

Some children of ADF parents may experience some disruption to both the academic and social aspects of their schooling each time they move. The different structures of education systems between Australian states and territories can result in learning gaps. DSTAs and DTMs support the smooth transition of mobile ADF dependents from school to school upon ADF relocations or postings. The DSTA supports Junior School students (EY-Y6) from Defence Force families at North and South while the DTM supports students from Defence Force families in Middle School at North and South (Y7-Y10) and older students (Y11-Y12) at Senior. Defence School Transition Aides and Mentors provide assistance to ADF children and their families by:

- being a contact for parents of new ADF children at the school;
- assisting students to integrate into the school community;
- co-ordinating welcome and farewell activities;
- supporting students during times of parental absence from home due to service requirements;
- assisting young people to manage the challenges of transitions and assisting them to develop their self-confidence and resilience;
- monitoring students day to day social and emotional wellbeing;
- referring students where necessary to appropriate student support services;
- linking students to school and community programs;
- providing opportunities for ADF families to meet other ADF families within the school community.

The DSTA/DTM role is not a teacher, nor are they intended to be working one-on-one with a student on a long-term basis, rather their role is purely one of support. The DSTA program is funded by the Department of Defence. Both the DSTA and DTM roles at Trinity College are part-time. For further information please contact:

### **Kylie Harrison**

Defence School Transition Aide (North & South)  
harrisky@live.trinity.sa.edu.au  
(08) 8522 0632

### **Kim Lally**

Defence Transition Mentor (North, South & Senior)  
lallyki@live.trinity.sa.edu.au  
(08) 8523 8101

Additional services and resources are provided by the Defence Community Organisation to assist families with the transition between schools and education systems.

### **Education Assistance Scheme & Education Liaison Officers (EDLOs)**

The Education Assistance Scheme provides a range of financial support to Defence families to help minimise the disruption to schooling caused by posting and relocations.

Assistance is provided for tutoring, reunion travel, boarding school allowances, students with special needs, scholarship loss and tertiary accommodation. Defence may reimburse fees for tutoring required to fill any gaps in understanding of 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 commencing at a new school.

EDLOs (previously referred to as REDLOs) give education support to Defence families as they move around the country, providing information, advice, referral and specialised assistance. This includes:

- informing families about local schools and education systems and working with parents, students and teachers to manage the transition to a new location and school;
- linking families with special education providers, resources or support agencies according to their children's individual needs (including special needs students);
- informing families about Defence support services, including financial assistance entitlements.

For further information about the Education Assistance Scheme, or to contact the REDLO for South Australia please call the Defence Family Helpline on **1800 624 608**.