

24 September 2021

Re: Consideration of Travel Exemptions for ADF Families

To the Premier of Victoria, the Hon Daniel Andrews:

I write to request your Government to reconsider the approval of travel exemption permits for the families of the members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who are in the process of posting (relocation) to Victoria.

Established in 1986, Defence Families of Australia (DFA) is the Ministerially appointed group representing the equities of the families of current serving ADF members. As advisors to Government and Defence, DFA advocates for ongoing improvement in policy and practice. Our aim is to reduce the negative impacts of military service on ADF families, and to support the positive aspects of this unique Defence lifestyle. Defence families can face additional stressors as a result of their loved one's military service. During the pandemic, that gap is widened by instances such as your Government's current refusal to permit some ADF families into relocate to Victoria with their ADF member.

Your Government's current stance is that ADF members posting to Victoria from areas of higher risk of Covid-19 may be granted a travel exemption to enter the state under the Single Entry Specified Worker List¹. Distressingly, their family is not permitted to move with them.

The Victorian Veterans portfolio talks to *honour[ing] and support[ing] veterans and their families*².

Premier, your Government has the opportunity to stand by this commitment in helping to keep our Defence families together while the ADF member continues to serve in our national interests. These families have reaffirmed to DFA that they are willing to undertake the required testing and quarantine periods to facilitate their family staying together.

In the strongest possible terms, DFA advocate for Defence families to be supported to co-locate with their soldier, sailor or aviator to enable their military service in Victorian posting locations.

You are welcome to contact me if you require any clarification on this issue, DFA's role, or if you would like to discuss other issues concerning Defence families.

Yours Sincerely,



Sandi Laaksonen-Sherrin

National Convenor
Defence Families of Australia
0410 626 103
convenor@dfa.org.au

¹ As per the [Victorian Government Specified Worker Permit](#) webpage, as at 23 September 2021.

² As per the [Victorian Government website](#).