

To Whom It May Concern:

This Advocacy Map is a snapshot in time of the advocacy work currently being undertaken by Defence Families of Australia (DFA). This is the first public version of this document, and will be a dynamic tool released quarterly through the DFA newsletter, *The Advocate*.

This is a working document, with the full internal version being constantly updated. The internal version also includes details of the decision makers, allies, and business case for each advocacy entry.

The legend for each advocacy entry:

**X. TOPIC:**

**XA. Goal description**

- Outcome/objective
- Action completed

There are four tables, categorising our advocacy into themes:

1. Postings and Relocations
2. Family Stability
3. Relationships
4. General Topics

The aim of this document is to provide transparency of the work DFA does, and to offer the opportunity for defence families and other stakeholders to support these advocacy efforts. It will continue to be developed and refined over time.

If you have questions relating to any advocacy entry, or wish to provide feedback on any issues not already listed, please email DFA National Policy and Projects Officer, Chantel Williams: [policy@dfa.org.au](mailto:policy@dfa.org.au).

Kind regards

Sandi



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*Please note, I work part-time and you may not receive a response immediately.*



DFA is the Ministerially appointed national advocacy and advisory body for Defence families in Australia. We work flexibly and may send emails outside normal working hours. If this is an emergency, please call 000 or the Defence Member and Family Helpline on 1800 624 608. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country across Australia, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

**TABLE ONE: POSTINGS AND RELOCATIONS**

SHORT-TERM GOALS (0-3 months approx.)	MEDIUM-TERM GOALS (3-6 months approx.)	LONG-TERM GOALS (6-12+ months approx.)
<p><b>1. HOUSING:</b></p> <p><b>1A. Expanding housing choices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure understanding from senior decision makers about the need for greater choice in housing for defence families.</li> <li>Expansion of Puckapunyal Housing Trial</li> <li>Expansion of the Flexible Housing Trial</li> <li>Explore choice options based on partner employment and school availability (not just pets)</li> <li>Greater clarity and notice of re-banding of houses</li> </ul> <p><b>1B. Partner Rental History Document</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DHA to produce a letter/document confirming details of partner's tenancy history upon request</li> <li>Acknowledge or add a partner on tenancy agreements</li> </ul> <p><b>1C. Enable Spouse to Sign Off on relationship breakdown Removal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change policy to enable the ADF member and spouse to be able to sign off on family removals</li> <li>Raise awareness of the risks of this policy being misused in instances of FDV</li> </ul> <p><b>1D. Overnight accommodation between uplift and downlift for families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove the gap in entitlements, to allow families moving out of a SR/RA are covered for one night of accommodation between the uplift and downlift of their possessions</li> </ul> <p><b>1E. Review of Defence owned properties and allowances for families in remote regions e.g. Thursday Island, Tully &amp; Weipa</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to newer properties for families in remote locations – current standard of service residences are not on par with other locations</li> <li>Increase awareness of the complexities of living in these locations and the impact this can have on families</li> </ul> <p><b>2. POSTINGS:</b></p> <p><b>2A. Co-location of Defence families relocating for capability during the Covid-19 pandemic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approach the State and Territory governments to raise awareness of the unique nature of military service and the impacts of border restriction policies on Defence families</li> <li>Defence families to be supported to locate, to keep the family together and to support the ADF member to deliver Defence capability</li> <li>Additional resources to help reduce delays in processing travel exemptions for some states, which impacts relocations and MWDU reunions</li> </ul>	<p><b>4. HOUSING:</b></p> <p><b>4A. Expanding housing choices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy updated for increased flexibility to rent allowance requests, including factors such as proximity to medical services, partner employment, and schooling options</li> <li>Relaxation of employment offer as a pre-condition of flexible housing offer (i.e. Puckapunyal housing trial)</li> <li>Expansion of housing band categories to enable greater choice, e.g. suitable offer townhouse, rent band choice</li> </ul> <p><b>4B. Review of rental ceiling &amp; service residence numbers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate to Defence for need for more stability in the numbers of SRs currently available and streamlined RA processes</li> <li>Rent ceiling review – current rent ceiling for many areas is not reflective of the current market</li> <li>Rent allowance reviews (and possible subsequent increases) need to keep pace with market</li> <li>Clear definition and course of action from Defence when family is unable to obtain a SR or a RA property due to housing crisis in regions e.g. Cairns</li> </ul> <p><b>4C. Businesses from Home Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DHA to add flag on website to indicate houses owned by Defence or DHA, and the consequent policy for business from home approvals ahead of selecting a SR</li> <li>Support DMFS review of business from home needs and prevalence</li> <li>Support policy review based on research findings to increase efficiencies for businesses from home</li> </ul> <p><b>4D. Consistency in policy application</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support review and update of policy regarding ownership rights and maintenance responsibilities</li> <li>Flag areas of inconsistency as they are raised with DFA</li> </ul> <p><b>4E. Expansion of Removal Deadlines during relationship breakdown</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness of the risks of this policy being misused in instances of family and domestic violence</li> <li>Commitment for review of current policy for any areas which may support or hinder family and domestic violence interventions</li> <li>Expand the deadlines for removals out of a service residence following relationship breakdown.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. OVERSEAS POSTINGS:</b></p> <p><b>5A. Supporting co-location with pets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage Defence and Qantas (National provider) to significantly subsidise high costs of pet transport for overseas military postings</li> </ul>	<p><b>8. HOUSING:</b></p> <p><b>8A. Capital inclusions (by state)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coverage for appropriate heating/cooling in all residences</li> <li>Inclusion of sustainable options, such as solar panels</li> </ul> <p><b>8B. Expansion of Removal Deadlines during bereavement (death of a ADF member)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy recognises the needs of grieving families to have time to process and plan for the future (recommended 18 months)</li> <li>Policy change to allow families to stay in a service residence for up to 18 months, if required. This also makes best use of the single removal benefit</li> </ul> <p><b>9. POSTINGS:</b></p> <p><b>9A. Reduce the need for relocations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Defence review and planning to increase flexible and remote work options</li> <li>Advocate for longer term career planning by Career Management Agencies</li> </ul> <p><b>10. RELOCATIONS:</b></p> <p><b>10A. Covering cost of bond cleaning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase awareness of inconsistency of policy: cleaning paid for in service residence, but not in rent allowance properties</li> <li>Policy inclusion of an allowance or extra night accommodation to cover self-clean (current option)</li> </ul> <p><b>11. EDUCATION:</b></p> <p><b>11A. Boarding subsidy for Defence children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve awareness among families and schools of current boarding subsidy available to Defence families</li> <li>Schools to price match boarding fees to the Defence boarding subsidy, similar to the UK</li> </ul> <p><b>11B. Create a Defence School Network for Defence children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create school networks of schools who are preferred providers for education services to Defence families</li> <li>Drive engagement of schools to support Defence families and be included in this network, e.g. discounts, priority placements, DSM support etc.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in communications to families around relocation limitations, due to State and Territory regulations</li> </ul> <p><b>3. RELOCATIONS:</b></p> <p><b>3A. Remove general bans on defence families accompanying ADF member on postings to WA and VIC during the pandemic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise State Premiers and their Ministers responsible for defence and veterans about this issue</li> <li>• Secure removal of this general ban, and support for co-location of families posting into these regions</li> </ul> <p><b>3B. Reduce interruptions to relocations due to State and Territory border restrictions during the pandemic.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CDF to write to all State and Territory leaders to highlight the issues facing defence families posting during the pandemic, and those in MWDU arrangements</li> <li>• Defence to establish ADF run hotel quarantine facilities to streamline access to QLD and NT</li> <li>• Inform Defence communications campaigns around State and Territory restrictions to support families to plan and decide upon their posting movements</li> <li>• Advise Defence of issues facing families relating to posting and reunion travel during the pandemic (ongoing)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of the sacrifices ADF families make to post overseas to support ADF military capability, and the costs of keeping the whole family together including pets</li> </ul> <p><b>6. RELOCATIONS:</b></p> <p><b>6A. Increased awareness of requirements of families in overseas postings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Induction seminars and information readily accessible to families prior to having to accept overseas postings</li> <li>• Support the review of current information sources and communications campaigns to ensure it is easy to find and understand</li> </ul> <p><b>6B. Policy update regarding local information provided to families upon new postings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent provision of “welcome packs” to families including information from local organisations and units etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>7. EDUCATION:</b></p> <p><b>7A. Priority placements in schools for Defence children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate to State and Territory Education Departments for recognition of Defence children as a priority cohort</li> <li>• Obtain approval from schools to permit posting orders as confirmation of residential location until a service residence can be secured</li> </ul>	
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**TABLE TWO: FAMILY STABILITY**

SHORT-TERM GOALS (0-3 months approx.)	MEDIUM-TERM GOALS (3-6 months approx.)	LONG-TERM GOALS (6-12+ months approx.)
<p><b>12. COMMUNICATION:</b></p> <p><b>12A. Increased communication with ADF families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support DPG to develop a Forcenet guide for engagement with families</li> <li>Advocate for the coordination of a Defence communication committee to drive collaboration across Defence on internal and immediate stakeholder communications</li> <li>Induction session for families of newly listed members</li> </ul> <p><b>12B. Direct family engagement via Defence website, accessible outside the DPN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of family specific information on the Defence website</li> <li>All community related information to be included on this platform</li> <li>Include posting and relocation guidance online for families to keep informed on pandemic restrictions</li> </ul> <p><b>12C. Opt out rather than opt in for community emails on enlistment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support DMFS research into this area</li> <li>Support initiatives for greater uptake of direct communication with families</li> <li>Advocate for clear, consistent processes of data collection on family contact details.</li> </ul> <p><b>12D. Regional welcome information distributed at welcome visits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support establishment of a Families Working Group in Defence to develop core resources and guidance for units to engage with families</li> <li>Review content developed by the Working Group prior to use</li> <li>Establish information input channels with key stakeholders, including DHA, Toll, DMFS and CMAs.</li> </ul> <p><b>13. TUTORING:</b></p> <p><b>13A. Expansion of qualifying period from 18mths to over whole posting (PEAP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approach DG DMFS to gain commitment</li> <li>Confirm commitment from DMFS to provide additional tutoring support on a case-by-case basis for Defence children whose educational outcomes have been impacted by the pandemic and/or relocations</li> <li>DMFS to deliver communications campaign, which DFA share to raise awareness of this initiative</li> </ul> <p><b>14. EDUCATION:</b></p> <p><b>14A. Improvements to the Moving Schools Checklist</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delegates to provide suggested additions/improvements to the checklist</li> </ul>	<p><b>17. TUTORING:</b></p> <p><b>17A. Upfront payment to tutor to reduce financial burden on member/family</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of conditions by DMFS to explore options</li> <li>Explore options to reduce out of pocket expenses for families from upfront payment of tutoring costs prior to reimbursement.</li> </ul> <p><b>18. DSM PROGRAM:</b></p> <p><b>18A. Expanding program funding to encompass children of Ex-Serving Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise issue to awareness of Minister for Defence Personnel, referencing latest research on the topic</li> <li>DMFS commitment to maintain DSM services to Defence children whose parents have transitioned for up to two years</li> <li>Change to policy to formally recognise DMFS commitment to the children of recently transitioned ADF members</li> </ul> <p><b>19. EDUCATION:</b></p> <p><b>19A. Support consistency and service quality of Defence School Mentor program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase awareness of inconsistency of application of programs across states &amp; territories including training and hiring processes</li> <li>Review the eligibility for who can be a Defence School Mentor – do they require a connection to Defence?</li> </ul> <p><b>19B. Accurate data on Defence children in school</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with State and Territory Education Depts and DMFS to establish a system to accurately collect data on the number of Defence children in schools, to ensure resources are proactively allocated rather than allocated upon request e.g. a tick box question on enrolment form</li> </ul> <p><b>20. PARTNER EMPLOYMENT:</b></p> <p><b>20A. Reducing barriers to State and Territory registration for partners in sectors such as health &amp; education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare proposal of current registration climate</li> <li>Workshop with HPC and DMFS on shared advocacy</li> <li>Support National advocacy for standardisation of national registration</li> </ul> <p><b>20B. Improve policy to support Businesses from Home (BFH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DMFS to research the scale and nature of BFH in Defence families.</li> <li>Research results to inform policy, reducing hurdles to BFH</li> <li>Increase accessibility and early access to information for families relocating due to postings to support BFH transitions</li> <li>Timely approval process for BFH (currently up to several months)</li> </ul>	<p><b>28. PARTNER EMPLOYMENT:</b></p> <p><b>28A. Raise awareness and focus on the issue among Defence, Government and the corporate sectors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the comprehensive review of the Partner Employment Assistance Program (PEAP)</li> <li>Secure expansion of PEAP so spouses can access it at any point during a posting cycle</li> <li>Secure expansion of PEAP to support spouses whose employment was impacted by the pandemic.</li> <li>Secure expansion of support services available through PEAP (access to Transition Support services similar to transitioning ADF members)</li> <li>Engage with the corporate sector to highlight the business case for partner employment (representing &gt;40% of the national GDP)</li> <li>Support the development and expansion of partner employment programs by specialist service providers (e.g. Soldier On, RSL)</li> <li>Advise businesses on how they can engage and support defence families through suitable employment</li> <li>Increase momentum of partner employment programs across the public and private sectors</li> <li>Showcase examples of the talent and transferability of defence family skills and careers</li> </ul> <p><b>28B. Contract adjustments for Defence service providers on bases, to support/enable &amp; reduce barriers to offers of on-base employment to Defence partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment strategy which considers and supports applications from Defence spouses</li> </ul> <p><b>28C. Supporting work options for ADF partners.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with Career Management Agencies to raise awareness of ADF partners as a talent pool</li> <li>Advise on tailored recruitment campaigns to highlight Defence employment options for ADF partners</li> </ul> <p><b>28D. Family access to the QLD Government Connecting the Sector Veterans' Mentoring program, and expansion into other states and territories</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of eligibility for families to access this program</li> <li>Expansion of eligibility for veterans and families based in other States or Territories</li> </ul> <p><b>29. CAPABILITY AND STABILITY:</b></p> <p><b>29A. Increased location stability by reducing posting relocations</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DMFS to accept recommendations for checklist update</li> <li>DMFS and DFA to promote checklist as a resource for families</li> </ul> <p><b>14B. Recruitment of DSMs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DMFS to have robust contingencies for long term absences, preferably with staff on site/in location. e.g. this could be a DSM shared across several schools where Defence numbers do not warrant higher commitment of hours</li> <li>DMFS to communicate to DFA and Defence families if there are significant delays in recruitment, and about alternatives for services in the meantime.</li> </ul> <p><b>14C. Increased awareness and uptake of DSMs by schools to support Defence children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DMFS to deliver communications campaign, which DFA share</li> </ul> <p><b>15. FAMILY LIAISON OFFICERS (FLO):</b></p> <p><b>15A. Recruitment of Full Time FLO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment and onboarding of FLO for Canberra and Nowra</li> <li>Recruitment and onboarding of FLO for South Queensland</li> <li>DMFS to have robust contingencies for long term absences, preferably with staff on site/in location</li> <li>DMFS to communicate to DFA and Defence families about recruitment progress/timing</li> </ul> <p><b>16. PARTNER EMPLOYMENT:</b></p> <p><b>16A. Flexible working and leave permissions to enable ADF members to support frontline workers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDF to issue a message to all Commands that where spouses are frontline workers, ADF is to support these families to enable them to do this critical work</li> </ul>	<p><b>21. PUCKAPUNYAL HOUSING TRIAL:</b></p> <p><b>21A. Acceptance of partner employment factors in applications to join the trial prior to relocation or job offer.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing modernisation discussion</li> <li>Change policy to trial to better consider partner employment</li> </ul> <p><b>22. OOSCH CHILDCARE:</b></p> <p><b>22A. Subsidies for Defence families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal based on foreign examples (UK, US, Canada), including before and after school care, outside of school hours care, home based care etc.</li> <li>Review of the Family Emergency Assistance Scheme to be more accessible and relevant</li> <li>Advocate for inclusion in PACMAN of a childcare subsidy for Defence families to support families during deployment and to support partner's employment</li> <li>Develop support for 'emergency or ad hoc childcare' for parents when parent has critical job interview or meeting</li> </ul> <p><b>23. FAMILY INCLUSION:</b></p> <p><b>23A. Commence process to engage with family in the event of a medical downgrade (increased carer's responsibility)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for greater support for members awaiting medical separation</li> </ul> <p><b>24. FLEXIBLE WORKING OPTIONS:</b></p> <p><b>24A. Expansion of the hub model for Defence employees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult with Estate and Infrastructure Group and DMFS to understand the demand and locations where hubs may be of most benefit</li> <li>Commitment to establish additional remote working hubs initially in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane</li> <li>Commitment to establish additional remote working hubs in other locations where needed.</li> </ul> <p><b>25. FINANCIAL SECURITY:</b></p> <p><b>25A. Delivery of free financial literacy programs specific to defence families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADF Financial Services Consumer Centre (ADFFSCC) to establish and deliver relevant programs</li> <li>Advice to ADFFSCC on feedback from families to these programs for ongoing improvement (ongoing)</li> </ul> <p><b>26. OVERSEAS POSTINGS:</b></p> <p><b>26A. Streamline processes to access education tuition and employment support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DMFS to expand eligibility and reduce red tape around processes.</li> <li>Inform Defence communication campaigns to increase family awareness</li> </ul> <p><b>27. TRANSITION:</b></p> <p><b>27A. Relevant and timely information for families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DMFS to review and reform transition resources to include families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate to Defence to review posting practice</li> <li>Increase awareness and training in CMA staff for longer term career planning.</li> <li>During the pandemic, CDF ordered that postings reduce relocations wherever possible.</li> <li>Promote flexible working arrangements within Defence</li> </ul> <p><b>30. EDUCATION:</b></p> <p><b>30A. State-based exemption for Defence families, from needing an address on enrolment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standard letter of support from CDF addressed to school principals requesting defence children be favourably considered for enrolment with unit address listed temporarily until a residence is secured.</li> <li>Option for defence children to be added as a tentative enrolment on waitlists pending confirmation of address</li> <li>Obtain commitment from State and Territory Governments to support Defence children as exceptional cases on relocation</li> </ul> <p><b>30B. Expanded eligibility for children to access DSMs after their parent's transition out of full-time service.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DMFS commitment that DSMs can continue to provide support to the children of veterans who have transitioned for as long as they remain at the school.</li> <li>Liaise with Veteran Family Advocate to share learnings from DSM program, for DVA to develop veteran child support services where required</li> </ul> <p><b>31. BEREAVEMENT:</b></p> <p><b>31A. Expansion of Removal Deadlines for bereaved families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand the deadlines for removals out of a property following bereavement</li> <li>Align ADF bereavement support process to entitlement periods, to ensure support is timely and not adding additional stress to the family at a time of grief</li> </ul> <p><b>32. DSM PROGRAM:</b></p> <p><b>32A. Increased awareness and uptake of Defence School Mentors by schools to support Defence children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure consistent services provided by Defence School Mentors across the country</li> </ul> <p><b>33. PARENTAL LEAVE</b></p> <p><b>33A. Increased awareness and advocate for change around eligibility for Government Paid Parental Leave</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMFS offers childminding support and a child-friendly environment for families to attend Transition Seminars</li> <li>• Partners and/or support person to be included in meetings with ADF Transition, and to factor in the whole family's transition not just the member</li> <li>• Direct feedback processes to drive ongoing improvement of services</li> <li>• Inform communications campaigns to increase awareness of available support service options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion of eligibility for non-serving spouse to receive government funded parental leave during a relocation when employment in the new location has not been secured</li> </ul>
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**TABLE THREE: RELATIONSHIPS**

SHORT-TERM GOALS (0-3 months approx.)	MEDIUM-TERM GOALS (3-6 months approx.)	LONG-TERM GOALS (6-12+ months approx.)
<p><b>34. ACCOMMODATION:</b>  <b>34A. For spouse on night of pre-pack and uplift when relocating due to RELATIONSHIP BREAKDOWN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy review to explore gap</li> <li>Policy change to include accommodation for spouse</li> </ul> <p><b>34B. BDM-28 day period to vacate SR (member entitlement)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase timeframe in defence housing at point of relationship breakdown for partner/spouse to secure alternative accommodation and complete personal admin</li> </ul> <p><b>35. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT:</b></p> <p><b>35A. Increase communication effectiveness between Defence and families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DMFS to increase reference and relevant information for NT cohort on their social media channels</li> </ul> <p><b>36. FAMILY CONNECTION:</b>  <b>36A. Permit recommencement of mid-deployment leave or reunion travel as pandemic restrictions ease</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice and formal request to CJOPS to reinstate reunion travel for overseas deployments, in line with the reinstatements seen by most Allied Nations</li> </ul> <p><b>37. COMMUNITY CONNECTION:</b>  <b>37A. Support grassroots initiatives to connect the defence community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mentoring, advisory and support role to numerous spouses and small NFPs to establish engagement options for the community</li> </ul> <p><b>37B. Forcenet as a secure resource and platform for connection across the community and Defence.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of a secure social media platform for families to engage with Defence and each other.</li> <li>Support the development of a Commander's guide for utilising Forcenet to support families</li> <li>Advise the Forcenet Working Group on feedback from the community relating to the platform (ongoing)</li> </ul> <p><b>38. AFGHANISTAN EVACUATION:</b>  <b>38A. Streamlined pathways for the defence community to engage with and support Afghan evacuees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish concise summary of current government services and tangible ways the community can support Afghan evacuees</li> <li>Connect service delivery stakeholders to establish programs and clear pathways for defence families to support Afghan evacuees, e.g. DVA, RSL National, Settlement Services Australia, Refugee Council of Australia, Multicultural Australia</li> </ul>	<p><b>39. SERVICE AWARENESS:</b>  <b>39A. Increased awareness of support services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for increased resourcing for DMFS communications, to improve awareness of their services</li> </ul> <p><b>40. FAMILY CONNECTION:</b>  <b>40A. Reintroduction of reunion travel for domestic postings and deployments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDF to encourage all Command to support reunion travel requests for all families currently MWDU or separated parents away from their children etc.</li> </ul>	<p><b>41. WELLBEING CENTRES:</b>  <b>41A. Expansion of the wellbeing centres, and greater inclusion of families in their service design and communications strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation as advisors in the establishment and ongoing improvement of wellbeing centres</li> <li>Greater service offering for families in centres</li> </ul>

**TABLE FOUR: GENERAL TOPICS**

SHORT-TERM GOALS (0-3 months approx.)	MEDIUM-TERM GOALS (3-6 months approx.)	LONG-TERM GOALS (6-12+ months approx.)
<p><b>42. MEDICAL:</b>  <b>43A. Better access to on-base GPs at Amberley &lt;SQLD&gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase in GP staff to reduce wait times</li> <li>● Increase in QA and training to improve quality of treatment</li> </ul> <p><b>43. DIVERSITY:</b>  <b>44A. Stronger inclusion of diverse Defence families and their needs in policy making</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Engagement with Defence Indigenous Affairs (DIA) and RILO/ILO networks to include indigenous Defence families, NORFORCE etc.</li> <li>● Engagement with RACS to include spiritually diverse families.</li> <li>● Engagement with new Defence families</li> <li>● Engagement with regional Defence families, e.g. Thursday Island, Norfolk Island, remote bases in NT/WA etc.</li> <li>● Engagement with families with disabilities or special needs, e.g. DSNSG and via DHA exemptions teams</li> <li>● Expansion of eligibility to work for DFA beyond just recognised spouses of ADF members, to include all immediate, adult family members</li> </ul> <p><b>44. FAMILY SUPPORT:</b>  <b>45A. Individual advocacy for families with complex issues or requiring advice on their rights and relevant support services for their needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● National Delegates supporting any cases which arise in eight regions covering Australia (&gt;450 families per year with highly complex issues, and thousands with minor issues or questions)</li> </ul>	<p><b>45. RESEARCH:</b>  <b>46A. Maximise value of research undertaken on Defence families, and the impact of that research on meaningful change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inform the review of the Defence Family Survey 2022</li> <li>● Inform the Defence Census questions relating to families</li> <li>● Contribute to advisory boards of AIFS, AIHW and other research bodies to shape research related to Defence families</li> <li>● Connect stakeholders with the research opportunities, i.e. families to participate, and stakeholders to implement the findings for meaningful change (ongoing)</li> <li>● Review and inform the Australian Military Veterans and Families Research Programme, a joint venture between AIFS, Defence and DVA</li> </ul> <p><b>46. COMMUNICATION:</b>  <b>47A. Increased communication to families about available support services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Secure increased resourcing to grow communications capability in DMF</li> </ul>	<p><b>47. COMMUNITY CENTRE:</b>  <b>48A. Dedicated Defence owned Community Centre for Ipswich/Amberley region &lt;SQLD&gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Engage with DEIG</li> <li>● Engage with Amberley SADFO</li> <li>● Engage with DMFS including the temporary options they have identified, and discuss QLD Wellbeing Hub (see 4)</li> <li>● Investigate QLD Wellness Hub (DVA funded) as the long-term solution e.g. hub and spoke model providing a permanent off-base venue</li> </ul> <p><b>48. ENGAGEMENT WITH SUPPORT:</b>  <b>49A. Empower ADF Members to know where to seek support for them and their families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Advocate for messaging which reduces hesitancy to seek help</li> <li>● Advocate for review and update of processes, policy and culture which suggest negative career impacts for speaking up</li> <li>● Advocate for and deliver communications tailored to families to highlight the scope for support and that it's suitable to ask for help if needed</li> </ul> <p><b>49. CONSULTATION:</b>  <b>50A. Ensure consultation includes those with lived experience, as well as the relevant expertise</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Applied wherever required in DFA's work</li> </ul>