

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How can I contact the DSM?

You can leave a message at the school office or via email [tmort37@eq.edu.au](mailto:tmort37@eq.edu.au)

### Who should I advise if my partner is going away for an extended period of time?

Let the class teacher know and also send an email to the DSM.

### Does the school provide tutoring?

Unfortunately, we cannot recommend a tutor. We can advise you of the steps you need to take to receive tutoring through the Education Assistance Scheme (EAS). Information about EAS can be obtained through the Defence Family Helpline.

### Who should I advise if I am posted?

Advise the office and let the DSM know so they can arrange a farewell pack for students.

## Defence Family Helpline

**1800 624 608**

Providing support, advice and connecting the local community

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

DCO offers a range of programs and services to help Defence families manage military life

[www.defence.gov.au/dco](http://www.defence.gov.au/dco)



### Our tribute to past and present ADF members.

*We may oppose war, but we must always support those who we send to fight in it, including their families.*

*Tina Mortensen (DSM)*

## Contact the DSM

Tina shares her time as a DSM and Teacher Aide. Her room is located in lower A block (middle room)

Phone : 32640111

Email: [tmort37@eq.edu.au](mailto:tmort37@eq.edu.au)

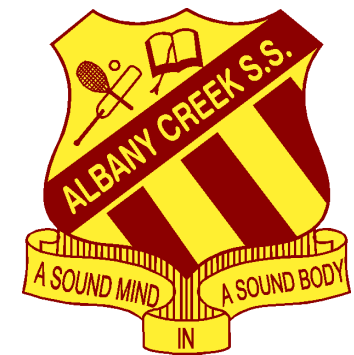


Albany Creek Defence Families

Support Group is a closed Facebook group to connect Defence families and offer support whilst being posted to Brisbane. It is open to all

## Albany Creek State School

## Defence School Mentor



HELPING DEFENCE STUDENTS and FAMILIES

## What is a Defence School Mentor?

The Defence School Mentor (DSM) Program provides assistance to Defence students and their families and raises awareness of the unique needs of these families due to military lifestyle within the school community. The DSM supports children of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and their families, particularly during their transition into and out of a school on posting or during parental absences due to deployment, exercises or courses.

The role is a part of the student services team within the school. DSM's are funded by Department of Defence through the Defence Community Organisation. They are employed as a member of the school staff by respective schools on a part time basis.

The DSM provides support to Defence students and families by :

- Assisting with transition between schools.
- Monitoring social, emotional, academic and wellbeing of defence students.
- Assisting in developing resilience and self-confidence in students.
- Providing support during times of parental absence.

- Helping families and children to develop strategies to successfully integrate into the school community.



## Who is the DSM?

Tina Mortensen is the DSM for Albany Creek State School. As an ex defence force member, Tina is aware of the hardships and sacrifices that are placed upon defence families and understands that moving schools can be quite daunting for children and their parents.

Tina's role as a DSM is to provide support and assistance to defence families during their time here at Albany Creek. Tina endeavours to assist children with any social issues they may have and provide them with a friendly face within the school grounds.

## What can DSM's do for students and families?

The DSM monitors the social, emotional and academic needs of Australian Defence Force children at Albany Creek State School. The DSM is there to advocate for your children, to ensure that they are settling into school, forming friendships and achieving to their best ability. Some of the activities in the DSM program include;

- Organising activities to Welcome and Farewell ADF Families.
- Assisting ADF parents and children to become familiar with the school and its facilities.
- Adopting a buddy system where new students are being cared for by other students.
- Encouraging students that they are not alone in their experience.
- Assist with the development of pride and sense of belonging to the school.
- Supporting children at school during times of a parental absence from home due to service requirements.
- Providing opportunities for ADF families to meet other ADF families within our school community.
- Help our school commemorate special events such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.
- Working with School Chaplain to set up support groups for children when needed.
- Act as a link between home and school.
- Increase understanding of the difficulties of ADF families amongst students and staff.
- Referring parents to services and activities offered by DCO and other community services.