

DEFENCE COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

*The Defence Community Organisation
Defence capability by delivering family
services, information and programs to
commanders of the Australian Defence*



DCO supports ADF families in peace and war

WELCOME TO TINDAL



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Welcome to Tindal

This Welcome Book has been prepared by the Defence Community Organisation (DCO) for Defence personnel and their families posting to the Katherine region.

The book captures a wide range of general and local information to assist you to settle into your new location. Katherine and the surrounding region have a lot to offer you, making this a posting with many exciting opportunities.

We have endeavoured to include as much information as possible in this guide, however if you have specific needs or require further information, please feel free to contact us. A list of essential services and useful contact numbers is included at the back of the book.

Your local DCO team hopes you enjoy your posting and we look forward to being of assistance to you.

'DCO supports ADF families in peace and war'

Publisher's Note:

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information given in this publication, the publishers do not, in any way, accept liability for inaccuracies or for any loss of any kind caused through editorial material.

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Introduction and Welcomes

Welcome from Commanding Officer 322ECSS

As Base Commander, I take great pleasure in having the opportunity to say welcome to all personnel posted to RAAF Base Tindal. To those personnel posted to 322 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron (322ECSS), I extend a particularly warm welcome. In addition, I welcome all those families and dependants accompanying their serving spouse/parent. The 322ECSS continues to be busy supporting air operations at RAAF Tindal. The normal operations conducted by No. 75 Squadron and the open spaces of the Top End, combined with our proximity to the Delamere Range facility, make this base an attractive location to hold large exercises such as Ex. Arnhem Thunder, Ex. Pitch Black and Ex. Southern Frontier. Further adding to the tempo of the unit is the continuing support afforded to the three Bare Bases, our contribution to the online Northern Expeditionary Support Squadron and the deployment of personnel in support of the many ADF operations overseas.

Being away from extended family, friends and the usual amenities to which most of us are accustomed can be quite daunting and can seem like a major obstacle. Living in such a small Service community as Tindal, however, there is scope for getting out and meeting other new families and making new friends. The base and the Katherine region provide a lot of resources and activities that can make life enjoyable and rewarding. I encourage you to make every effort to ensure your time here is as

interesting and enjoyable as possible, especially during the dry season, when the weather is at its best.

I look forward to meeting you and I'm sure you will enjoy your time here.

Chris O'Beirne
WGCDR
CO 322ECSS



Welcome from Commanding Officer 75SQN

Congratulations on your posting to 75SQN and welcome to Tindal. You are joining an outstanding Squadron operating in a unique and fascinating part of Australia and I hope you will very much enjoy the experience.

75 Squadron was first formed in Townsville on 4 March 1942 and deployed to New Guinea on 20 March, commencing action against the Japanese within hours of its arrival. After action in Port Moresby, the squadron operated at various locations in New Guinea and Borneo and participated in the Battle of Milne Bay.

In the 40 years after World War II, the squadron operated a variety of aircraft including the Mustang, Wirraway, Vampire, Meteor, Sabre and Mirage. 75 Squadron was based at many different locations including Williamtown, Malta, England, Germany and Malaysia, before returning to Darwin in 1983. On 1 October 1988, 75 Squadron took delivery of the F/A-18 Hornet and relocated to Tindal.

The decision to base a Hornet Squadron in the Top End is a cornerstone of Australia's strategy for self-defence. Tindal itself was chosen because it was south of the cyclone belt, away from densely populated areas and close to the air weapons range at Delamere. The base provides outstanding training opportunities for Hornet aircrew and regularly hosts major international exercises.

75 Squadron has a proud tradition of overcoming adversity to provide an exceptional level of operational capability – one that continues to this day. In 2003, 75 Squadron was awarded a unit citation for action in the Gulf War. The Squadron has approximately 250 members, who all play a vital role in perpetuating that tradition and, ultimately, in achieving the Squadron's mission to deliver air combat capability.

Life in outback Australia is not without its challenges. It is quite normal for newly posted members and families to find the adjustment difficult; however, it is equally normal for folks who have lived in Katherine for some time not to want to leave. Many of your fellow Squadron members are on their second and third tours at 75 Squadron and are thoroughly enjoying the experience. There are fantastic opportunities in the Northern Territory and a very strong community spirit in Tindal.

Your wellbeing and your family's welfare are very important to me. It would not be possible to achieve our mission without the sacrifices made by our families. Tindal does have a strong community-based family support network and I will continue to work closely with them to provide the best possible support to you and your loved ones.

I sincerely hope you enjoy your time in Tindal and I very much look forward to welcoming you to 75 Squadron.

Rob Chipman
Wing Commander
Commanding Officer No. 75 Squadron



Welcome Message from the Mayor of Katherine

On behalf of the Katherine community and Katherine Town Council, I warmly welcome you to our town. I trust that you will treat Katherine as your town while you are here and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the next few months.

Katherine is situated some 315km south-east of Darwin and 1,144km north of Alice Springs. Katherine is located at the junction of the Stuart and Victoria Highways, making it the gateway to Western Australia, Darwin and Kakadu National Park.

Katherine offers a variety of businesses including the Commonwealth, Bendigo, ANZ and Westpac banks, which provide a full range of banking and financial services. Various Commonwealth and Northern Territory government departments are also represented in Katherine. The town of Katherine offers a variety of sporting venues, parks, recreation facilities, cultural activities and a library. The beautiful rivers in the Katherine region are well known as spots for camping, canoeing and recreational fishing.

A range of retail food, clothing, household appliances and toy shops, newsagents and other stores operate within Katherine, together with several stock and station agents, which service the rural sector. Woolworth's supermarket is located in the Oasis Shopping Centre and is open seven days a week. Prices are within about 10 per cent of those in Australian capital cities, although fresh, locally grown fruit and vegetables can be bought more cheaply.

Katherine also offers a variety of restaurants, which reflect the diverse mix of people who live in Katherine. There are four television stations, Austar cable TV and five radio stations (including an Aboriginal radio service) broadcast to the region, and the *Katherine Times* is the local newspaper, which is produced weekly.

The indigenous Jawoyn people are the traditional owners of the Nitmiluk National Park – 'Katherine Gorge' – which is located 29km from Katherine on a sealed road. The gorge consists of 13 natural gorges carved through sandstone by the Katherine River. Rocks and boulders separate each gorge. The gorge offers a beautiful backdrop for tourists and locals to enjoy swimming and canoeing.

In the Northern Territory, we have two seasons: the wet season and the dry season. The wet season is from November to April. This is the period where we get our annual rainfall. Afternoon showers and thunderstorms are regular, bringing relief to the hot days. The Territory comes alive during this season, the rain replenishes the ground and we have lush green bushland where wildlife abounds. It also means that flooding can occur, so check conditions with the Katherine Region Tourist Association if you plan to go off road during these months.

The dry season is from May to October. Most visitors come at this time of the year as humidity levels are lower and the weather is cooler. The weather is perfect for exploring everything the Northern Territory has to offer. The daily temperature ranges between 25 and 30 degrees.

The defence of our country is crucial, and we are particularly aware of this in the current international situation. We welcome your presence in our municipality. May your time in Katherine and the Northern Territory be pleasant and memorable.

**Anne Shepherd
Mayor of Katherine**



Jawoyn Welcome

I am pleased to welcome you to Tindal Air Base on behalf of the Jawoyn Association – so I am not just welcoming you here to Tindal, but also to Jawoyn land.

All the country to the east, as far as Mainoru, and to the north, as far as southern Kakadu area, is the traditional land of the Jawoyn people. It is a big country.

Few of you might realise this, but the Jawoyn people have had a long relationship with the Australian Defence Forces. Back in World War II, the Japanese bombed Katherine and a Jawoyn man was killed and another wounded on that first raid.

During the war, there were a number of Army camps around Katherine, and many of our forebears worked for the Army – often it was the first time Aboriginal people were paid with money instead of being paid with tea, flour and tobacco. So we remember that the Defence Forces treated us fairly. Jawoyn and other Aboriginal people in Katherine fought in the Australian Defence Forces in Korea and Vietnam.

Back in the early 1980s, when the proposal came forward to build Tindal as a large air base, our elders carried out sacred-site clearance work to allow the base to be built. To this day, the Air Force has fenced off one of our dreaming sites, and helps us look after it.

The Air Force has been a good citizen in the Katherine community, even though many of you are here only for a short time. Back in 1989, the Air Force helped us celebrate getting back our title to the Nitmiluk National Park at Katherine Gorge. You have helped us with organising our annual meetings and helped us with the festivals at Barunga. I take this opportunity to thank the Air Force for its help in the past, and hope we can keep this good relationship going in the future.

I know that many of you arriving here for the first time are a long way from your families and all of you are far away from your homes. I know this will be hard for you, and I hope that you are not lonely here in Katherine, because it is good country here, even if it is sometimes very hot and wet.

I know you might think I am biased, but I think Jawoyn country is the best in the world. It is country that we are now sharing with you and other visitors, and that is why I hope you grow to love this country like we do.

Thank you.

Lisa Mumbin

Chairperson Jawoyn Association



Defence Support Services

Defence Community Organisation (DCO)

How We Can Assist You

On behalf of Command, DCO delivers a broad range of targeted programs and services to support ADF personnel and their families to balance the demands of military service with personal and family commitments.

Your local DCO team is staffed by social workers, military support officers, regional education liaison officers, family liaison officers and administrative staff who are available to assist you and your family through the provision of:

- support in time of crisis
- information on Defence matters in general
- advice on community, recreational and interest groups
- deployment support
- mobility support
- professional counselling for personal, relationship and family problems
- various courses, information sessions and support groups
- specialist education advice and assistance
- special needs recognition and review
- employment assistance
- child care assistance.

Upon your arrival, please contact our staff if you would like further information not covered in this publication or if you would like to be linked to local Defence and community activities and support groups.

Where To Find Us

Tindal Community Centre
Easton Parade

Tel: (08) 89737134

Fax: (08) 89736135

Email: dco.tindal@defence.gov.au

DCO Website

The DCO website <http://www.defence.gov.au/dco> provides ready access to information for Defence families on a broad range of ADF member and family topics.

After Hours Emergency Support

The DCO Office is open from 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. All requests for emergency DCO assistance outside these hours and on public holidays should be directed to the National Welfare Coordination Centre (NWCC) on **Tel: 1800 801 026**.

NWCC will not transfer callers directly to DCO but, where necessary, will pass a request for assistance to a DCO Duty Officer who will return the call. DCO assistance out of hours is available in emergency situations only. Any non-emergency cases are referred for follow-up assistance during normal business hours.

Tindal Community Centre, Rooms 2 and 3/4

These rooms are available for use by Defence members and families for community groups, support functions and not-for-profit activities. To check availability and book the rooms, contact the DCO Tindal office.



{Caption: Location of the DCO office, Community Rooms, Tindal Preschool and ABC Learning Centre (Big Geckos) Out of Hours School Care Program.}

Chaplaincy Services

Defence chaplains throughout Australia provide religious services and pastoral care to members and their families, and advice to commanders and staff on spiritual and moral welfare.

Chaplains conduct religious services (including baptisms, weddings and funerals) and memorial services. The RAAF Welfare Trust Fund is accessed via the chaplains.

St Peter's Chapel RAAF Tindal

The chapel, which serves the whole base community, has the distinction of being the only purpose-built chapel in the RAAF. Construction was completed in October 1995 and the chapel was officially opened on 21 November 1995 by Air Commodore Frank Burt OBE. Apart from prayer and worship, the chapel is open during the day as a place of 'quiet space' for all members and families.

St Peter's Chapel and the chaplain's offices are located near Frontline Defence Services.

Sunday Service times:

8.30am, Roman Catholic Mass

9.45am, Protestant Service

RAAF Tindal Base Chaplains:

Chaplain Mike Pullar

Tel: (08) 8973 6032

Chaplain Alan Williams

Tel: (08) 8973 6033

Fax: (08) 8973 6097

There is a chaplain on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please phone the main switch on Tel: (08) 8973 6111 or the Base Command Post on Tel: (08) 8973 6888 and ask to speak to the Tindal Duty Chaplain.



Defence Bases

RAAF Base Tindal

RAAF Base Tindal is 17km from the centre of the town of Katherine and 320km by road south-east of Darwin. Planning for the first stage of the base's development began in 1982 and, after Commonwealth Government approval, construction of the base commenced in September 1984. RAAF Base Tindal was officially opened in October 1988.

Tindal occupies an area of 122 sq km, and has a 75km perimeter. Originally known as Carson's Airfield, Tindal was built during World War II as one of a number of airfields in the Northern Territory to support allied bomber operations. Construction began in mid 1942 and was completed in 1944. Reconstructions and extensions were undertaken by No. 5 Airfield Construction Squadron in October 1963 and completed in 1970. The airfield was renamed after Wing Commander A.R. Tindal, who was killed in action during the first Japanese air raid on Darwin on 19 February 1942.

Tindal was seen to have important operational and environmental advantages over other sites. Tindal, for example, is sufficiently distant from the coast to be essentially unaffected by tropical cyclone activity. The base's location offers considerable natural protection and an environment that enhances the quality of RAAF flying operations.

Defence Units at Tindal

The major units based at Tindal are:

- 322 Combat Expeditionary Support Squadron (322ECSS), including Delamere Range Facility
- 75 Squadron.

There are also detachments of the following RAAF units:

- 1 Airfield Operation Support Squadron (1AOSS)
- 3 Control and Reporting Unit (3CRU)
- 44 Wing Detachment Tindal
- 278 Squadron Detachment
- 81 Tactical Imagery Flight Detachment (81TIF DET).

Base Information

Remote Locality Entitlements and Allowances

There are a number of additional allowances and benefits associated with a posting to RAAF Base Tindal due to the remote locality and weather conditions.

These allowances include District Allowance, Remote Locality Leave Travel (RLLT) and Dependent Specialist Medical Travel. Information on these entitlements is available from 322ECSS BPAC and is detailed in PACMAN. An entitlements fact sheet supplied by Tindal BPAC can be obtained from Tindal DCO.

Driving On Base

All serving members and their dependants who drive a motor vehicle on base are subject to the Northern Territory Road Traffic Act. Drivers are to comply with NT regulations regarding: licences, registration, wearing of seatbelts, adhering to speed limits, obeying street signs, use of hands-free mobile phones only, wearing of helmets when cycling.

Dependants' Passes

Passes are required for all members, spouses and their dependants over the age of 12 years for access to the base (on-base cinema included), the gym and swimming pool, and should be carried on you whenever there is an exercise. To obtain your Tindal pass, you are required to complete the necessary paperwork (with the Unit Security Officer's signature). Please contact the front gate pass office on Tel: (08) 8973 6228 to make an appointment.

Vehicle Passes

All civilian-plated vehicles require vehicle passes and parking permits before access on base is granted. Passes and permits can be obtained from the front gate pass office.

RAAF Base Tindal Amenities

Located on Newham Circuit, opposite the Airman's Mess, are the following amenities and services.

Gymnasium

The gym is equipped with squash courts, an air-conditioned gym that caters for weight training, indoor sports and a circuit room. The gym is open at all times. Access is via a proxy card after hours. These proxy cards are issued to members, their dependants and Defence civilian employees through the front gate pass office.



Welfare Store

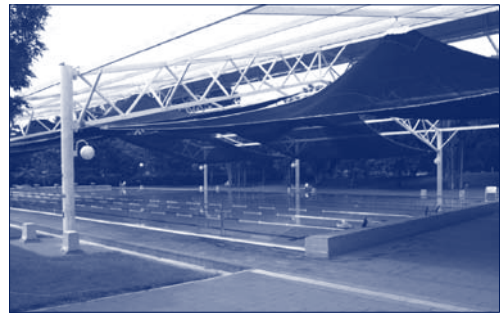
The welfare store hires out camping equipment, canoes and kayaks to Defence members and their families. The RAAF Base Tindal welfare store is located at the gym.

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10.30–11.30am.

Swimming Pool

Opening hours are 6am–8.30pm, Monday to Friday, and 6.30am–9pm on weekends. The pool is closed for cleaning Monday and Friday until 8am. The base pool complex has an Olympic-sized pool and a wading pool. It is situated opposite the gym. A civilian pool attendant supervises the pool complex during opening hours and has the authority of the Base Commander to enforce the rules as necessary.

For access to the pool, either a member or dependant is required to carry and produce their pass. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult. No alcohol or glass containers are permitted in the pool area.



Frontline Defence Service

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 7am–7pm

Saturday, 10am–4pm

Closed Sunday and public holidays

Tel: (08) 8973 6200

Frontline is located near the post office. Services provided include: take-away food, take-away

alcohol, groceries, ATM and EFTPOS, magazines and papers, fuel (diesel, unleaded, leaded), ice and gas bottle exchange.

Post Office

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm

Tel: (08) 8973 6335

The post office is located next to Defcredit. There is no mail delivery to homes on base; however, there are private boxes available. The post office is a Commonwealth Bank agency and you can pay most of your bills there.

Banking/Credit Unions

Defcredit

Opening hours: Monday–Friday, 9am–4.30pm

Tel: (08) 8973 6336

Defcredit is located next to the post office and offers all Defcredit services.

Australian Defence Credit Union (ADCU)

Opening hours: Monday–Friday, 9am–4pm
(closed 1.30–2pm)

Tel: (08) 8971 7438

ADCU is located beside the entrance to the swimming pool, opposite the gym entrance, and offers all ADCU services.

RAAF Base Tindal Frontline Complex



Here you will find Frontline Defence services, Defcredit, ADCU, Post Office and newly installed children's playground

Hairdresser

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm

Tel: (08) 8973 6187

'Your hairdresser' is located on the upper level in the gym. After-hours appointments available for colours, etc. 'Your hairdresser' provides a service for members, families and civilian employees –men and women.

Tindal Moonlit Cinema

The Tindal Moonlit Cinema operates throughout the dry season (April to November), providing entertainment under the stars. The cinema is located on the base. You can see the latest movies at a minimal cost; just bring your own chair, rug or beanbag. Food stalls are provided for those who want a drink or a hot snack.

Serving members, dependants, Defence civilian employees, honorary mess members and their invited guests may attend the cinema.

There are only a few rules: glass is not permitted in the cinema grounds, rubbish is to be placed in the bins provided, movie ratings are to be strictly adhered to and smoking is not permitted within the cinema grounds.

Tindal Community Times (TCT)

TCT is a monthly newsletter produced by and for the families of RAAF Base Tindal. *TCT* provides an opportunity for groups such as the various mess committees, sporting clubs and local community groups to promote and advertise their activities and events. It also provides useful directories and contact information. The newsletter provides a valuable service to the Tindal Defence community and is produced by a group of volunteers. The *TCT* committee welcomes your contributions, ideas and any assistance you may wish to offer. Please support your community newsletter.

Sport and Recreational Clubs

Katherine and Tindal offer a wide variety of sporting and recreational clubs. Be aware that often, due to the region's climate, sporting seasons can differ from those 'down south'. You can access information about these groups

in your Business and Community Directory (included in your welcome pack or available from the DCO) or in the local newspapers. Alternatively, call or drop in to DCO for information on your favourite activities.

Education

Regional Education Liaison Officer (REDLO)

The Regional Education Liaison Officer (REDLO) can provide you with information and advice about the education system in your posting locality and the Education Assistance Scheme available through the Department of Defence.

The DCO booklet, *Education – Northern Territory*, is available from the REDLO and contains information about preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary education in Northern Territory. It also covers services available for children with special needs, information on changing schools and details of the Education Assistance Scheme.

Defence School Transition Aides

Defence funds Defence School Transition Aides in a number of schools in the state. Defence School Transition Aides (Primary) and Defence Transition Mentors (Secondary) are employed to assist families as they relocate to a new school.

They can:

- organise activities that welcome and farewell ADF families and help them settle into the

new school community

- assist the school to understand the needs of ADF parents and their children
- inform the school and support families if ADF members are deployed
- help families with special needs
- assist families collect work portfolios and academic records or reports for the new school
- act as a point of contact for ADF families in the new school.

The DSTA helps all Defence children at the school should they seek or require assistance. It is not intended that the DSTA work with one child on a long-term basis.

Contact the REDLO for further information.

Tel: (08) 8935 7900

Email: redlo.nt@defence.gov.au

Handy Contacts

To view a school location map, please visit the Department of Employment, Education and Training website and click on 'School Locations and Maps'.

Internet: www.deet.nt.gov.au/education

Employment

The Services Workforce Access Program for Partners (SWAPP) Select

SWAPP has been enhanced with the new SWAPP Select, providing a greater selection of employment-enabling initiatives to assist an ADF partner become job ready and gain employment in the new posting locality. These initiatives include:

Professional Employment Services

Funding of up to a maximum of \$2,500 is available for a partner to choose a professional agency to provide some or all of the following services:

- career transition assessment and advice
- job search techniques and strategies
- preparation and presentation for interview
- application and selection criteria preparation
- identifying training options
- identifying job options.

Training

Assistance with individual training required to secure immediate employment is available, up to a maximum cost of \$2,500. Training can either be as a direct result of an employment offer, or identified by your professional service provider as enhancing your prospects of gaining immediate employment. The training must be completed within 12 months.

Personalised Resume Preparation

Funding assistance is available to a maximum of \$500 for a partner to choose a professional agency to prepare their resume. Alternatively, a resume preparation CD is available through your local DCO office, which provides assistance in preparing your own resume.

Child Care

Reimbursement of childcare costs, up to a maximum of \$250 per child, is available while you pursue job search activities, for example: travelling to appointments; participating in training; preparing job applications; or attending interviews.

Internet Access

If you are posting to a specified 'very remote locality', assistance with funding internet access costs, up to \$30 per month, is available to allow you to undertake distance learning that could enhance your employment opportunities.

Professional Registration Expense Payments (PREP)

If you post to a new locality and are required to re-register or undertake a short upgrade course of up to 12 months in duration (inclusive of university or TAFE) in order to obtain the same employment opportunities you had in your previous locality, this cost can be reimbursed under PREP.

Family Day Care

Funding is available under the Extended Child Care Program (ECCP) to assist with the mandated initial set-up costs incurred by Defence spouses commencing employment as carers with registered Family Day Care schemes.

For more information on how to become a family day care provider, or where to find your local family day care scheme, please contact Family Day Care Australia.

Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT)

Assistance provided under SWAPP Select and the ECCP will attract FBT. Further information on this is available on the DCO website.

Further Information

Further eligibility information for SWAPP Select and the ECCP, including application forms, can be obtained from your local DCO office and on the DCO website at <http://www.defence.gov.au/dco>

Children's Services

Defence Child Care Program

The purpose of the Defence Child Care Program is to aid mobility by facilitating priority of access to child care for Defence families where the local community is unable to meet the demand for child care places. Accordingly, the program is focused on ensuring mobile Defence families can access some form of child care on arrival in the gaining locality. This is achieved through a variety of centre and non-centre based child care. Defence does not directly subsidise the cost of any form of child care for Defence families, nor is child care an entitlement.

Defence Child Care Centres

All Defence/Corporate Child Care Centres across Australia are managed for Defence by ABC and are required to meet the state/territory Child Care Regulations for licensing and the requirements for Child Care Benefit (CCB).

The centres provide priority of access to Defence families in accordance with Defence's Priority of Access (POA) guidelines.

ABC Tindal
Easton Pde, Tindal
Tel: (08) 8971 7180
Fax: (08) 8971 7281

ABC Tindal also runs care programs outside school hours.

A full list of the centres and the Defence POA guidelines are available on the DCO website.

National Enrolment Call Centre

The ABC National Enrolment Call Centre can be contacted on Tel: 1800 222 543 for Defence families to:

- access placements in Defence/corporate child care centres
- book child care in the preferred location in advance of relocating to that area

- receive information on other centres in a general line of travel between work and home, if child care is not available in the family's preferred centre
- receive information regarding employment in Defence/corporate child care centres.

Family Day Care

Family day care is home-based child care by a qualified, monitored family day care provider. For more information on family day care, you can contact other schemes in your area through Family Day Care Australia.

Handy Contacts

Defence Community Organisation
Internet: www.defence.gov.au/dco/childcare.htm

ABC
Internet: www.childcare.com.au
Tel: 1800 222 543

Child Care Access Hotline
– provides up-to-date information about childcare options and locations:
Tel: 1800 670 305

Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Internet: www.facsia.gov.au

The National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC)
Internet: www.ncac.gov.au

Family Day Care Australia
Tel: (02) 4320 1100 or 1800 658 699
Internet: www.familydaycare.com.au

Child Care in Katherine

Katherine has a variety of childcare services available. These include five licensed day care centres, family day care, outside school hours care and vacation care.

As Katherine is a small community with limited resources, it is important that you ascertain the availability of the childcare service you require as early as possible. For further information on child care in the Katherine area, please contact the Family Liaison Officer.

Tel: (08) 8973 6353

ABC Learning Centre Tindal
(Little Geckos Child Care Centre)



Special Needs

When Defence families with special needs are posted, they might have difficulties accessing the services they require. These problems tend to relate to obtaining (or keeping) appropriate specialised equipment, waiting lists for accessing respite or therapy services in the new locality, and having appropriate accommodation that caters for the additional requirements of the family member with special needs.

In order to address some of these difficulties, Defence has a comprehensive program of assistance and support measures that can be accessed by ADF families who are formally recognised as having a dependant with special needs. The Dependants with Special Needs Program includes:

- a procedure whereby families can have their status as a special needs family formally recognised and reviewed by Defence
- a procedure whereby families can have their special needs status reviewed prior to relocating (required where families are seeking assistance in the new posting locality)
- a special needs pre-posting visit
- assistance to access specialised equipment in the new locality
- assistance to access therapy services in the new locality
- assistance to access respite services in the new locality
- assistance in the provision of appropriate housing and transit accommodation.

Contact your local DCO office for more information or to make an appointment to formalise recognition or for an assessment of assistance on posting.

Children with Special Needs

The decision on where to enrol a student, and with what level of support, will depend on a number of factors, including the student's educational needs, the expressed desires of parents and caregivers, the capacity of the education system to provide the level of support services required generally and at a particular location, and the availability of appropriate support services at alternative locations.

It is important that parents of children with special needs contact the REDLO as soon as notification of posting is given to facilitate the appropriate placement, so that the support is available for the student from the time of arrival at the new school.

Relocations and Housing

Defence Relocations and Housing Manager

Defence Relocations and Housing Managers are employed to assist ADF members and their families by liaising with DHA, Toll Transitions and the Defence Community Organisation in each region to make their relocation easier for them and their families. If you have an enquiry regarding your housing maintenance/allocation or relocation services, do not hesitate to contact your local Defence Relocation and Housing Manager listed below.

Area	Name	Telephone	Mobile	Fax
Tindal	Rob Smith	(08) 8973 6594	0429 780 211	(08) 8973 6163

Defence Housing Australia



Defence Housing Australia (DHA) delivers a range of housing and relocation services through a network of Housing Management Centres (HMCs) across Australia. DHA will help you and your family find a suitable service residence or other permanent accommodation in your gaining location. DHA is your first point of contact for relocations, allocations, emergency maintenance or queries you have regarding your housing needs.

For information about your removal, entitlements, allowances, or for help with any aspect of your move, please contact your local Housing Management Centre.

Handy contact information:

Defence Housing Australia

National Call Centre

Tel: 1800 249 711

Australia-wide 24-hour maintenance hotline

Tel: 1300 366 615

DHA website: www.dha.gov.au

Toll Transitions



You can complete your inventory online, in your own time at www.tolltransitions.com.au/defence. When you need to, you can save the inventory and return to it when you have the time. You can re-use the inventory every time you relocate. Simply log onto the website and amend your stored inventory.

You can download the 'Easymove Guide' from the website. DHA will also provide you with a hard copy of the guide when you are relocating.

After your move, in the unfortunate event of loss or damage, you can submit your Notice of Loss or Damage online direct to Toll Transitions' Warranty Management Centre (WMC).

For 24-hour relocation enquiries and assistance contact Toll Transitions on Freecall Tel: 1800 819 167.

Housing in Katherine

Single Living-In Accommodation (MWOD/MWD-U)

For ranks AC/W to CPL there are two types of living-in accommodation available in Tindal.

All LI members of these ranks are allocated accommodation in new blocks (Level 5) built in the past two years. Rooms are fully self-contained with kitchen facilities and bathroom. There is a shared laundry. Storage sheds are allocated near the carports and one carport is allocated per person.

In the situation that this Level 5 accommodation is not available, members will be allocated to a refurbished block (Level 2) located at Tindal. Each block contains three rooms with a shared bathroom/laundry area, kitchenette and common room. Storage sheds are located near the carports and one carport is allocated per person.

The accommodation for SGTs and above is located between the Officers' and SGTs' messes. Each block offers ground-level accommodation housing two people per block. Each block has four rooms and there is a washbasin facility in each room. All blocks have a shared bathroom/laundry facility, kitchenette and common room. Each member is allocated a carport.

With reference to the installation of AUSTAR, internet, phone connection or for any other questions, please call the Tindal Accommodation cell.

Tel: (08) 8973 6220

Family Accommodation (MWD)



There are approximately 390 service residences in the Tindal/Katherine region. The majority of housing is situated in Katherine East and on RAAF Base Tindal. Most homes are low-set, however, there are a number of high-set homes within the Katherine East area. All homes have carports (many are single carports). All homes have a storage shed and are fully air-conditioned with the addition of ceiling fans fitted throughout the homes.

Tindal is currently undergoing an upgrade program, whereby the on-base houses are being extensively renovated, including the installation of new kitchens, additional family rooms and ensuites.

Currently Stage 6 is under way and has a target completion date of the end of January 2008. The entire upgrade program is close to 80 per cent complete.



Health

Katherine Hospital

The Katherine Hospital is located 3km from the post office on Gorge Road, and consists of three well-equipped wards built in the late 1980s: obstetrics, medical/surgical, paediatrics as well as casualty/outpatients and an operating theatre. The hospital accepts urban and rural patients and refers some cases to the Royal Darwin Hospital.

Specialists from Darwin and southern states visit regularly, including surgery, gynaecology, paediatrics, ear nose and throat, orthopaedics, medical, cardiology and ophthalmology.

The Accident and Emergency Department is staffed 24 hours a day. Between 10.30am and 8pm there is a Medical Officer in attendance. Outside these hours, the Medical Officer is on call for acute illnesses and/or emergencies.

Patients are seen on the basis of clinical urgency and therefore waiting times will vary depending on the situation within the department at any given time.

Dependant Specialist Medical Travel Allowance

One of the additional allowances associated with a posting to RAAF Base Tindal – due to its remote locality – is Dependant Specialist Medical Travel Allowance.

This allowance provides reimbursement of reasonable costs associated with travel, accommodation and meals incurred when dependants are required to travel outside of Katherine for specialist medical appointments not available in Katherine. More information on this entitlement is available from the members' orderly room and is detailed in PACMAN.

Dental Surgery (Private)

Unit 4/17 First St, Katherine

For appointments

Tel: (08) 8972 1422

Opening hours: Monday–Friday, 8am–5pm

Doctor's Surgery – Kintore Clinic

First St (near O'Shea Tce)

Tel: (08) 8972 1677

Opening hours: Monday–Friday, 8am–6.30pm

Saturday, 8.30am–12pm

After-hours doctor on call

Tel: (08) 8972 1677

Payment is required at the time of consultation.

Bulk billing is not a standard practice.

Medicare

There is no Medicare office in Katherine. An online Medicare claim service is available at the Kintore Clinic Medical Centre and a Medicare Ezy Claim Machine is located at the Government Centre, First Street, Katherine. It is open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Health Centre Services

The Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Service is the main provider of health and disability services in the Northern Territory.

For information on Northern Territory Government Health Services

Internet: www.nt.gov.au/health/topics.shtml

This includes:

Community Health

The Community Health Centre is located in the Government Centre, in First Street.

Tel: (08) 8973 8570

Services provided by the Community Health Centre:

- immunisation clinics
- maternal health services
- infant health services and clinics
- school medical screening
- domiciliary nursing
- NT hearing services
- oral hygiene (dental clinic)
- nutrition.

Also located in the Government Centre is Katherine Mental Health Services, which provides a comprehensive range of mental health services to the Katherine region.

Tel: (08) 8973 8722

HealthConnect NT

HealthConnect NT is responsible for implementing national e-health initiatives across Australia. It is currently in the process of implementing the Shared Electronic Health Records Service. This service enables participating health care professionals to communicate important health information via computers quickly, accurately and securely, enabling better health care for consumers.

Tel: (08) 8973 8622

Katherine Region Aged and Disability Service

The Aged and Disability Program works in partnership to enhance opportunities for people with disabilities, children with developmental concerns, people who are ageing and their families and carers, to contribute to and participate in the community.

The services provided include assessment, therapy, case management, respite, supported accommodation and care, community access, information and training, equipment and subsidies and guardianship.

5 Kintore St, Katherine

Tel: (08) 8973 8778

Alcohol and Other Drugs Information Service (ADIS)

Tel: 1800 131 350

ADIS provides 24-hour, seven-day telephone counselling, information and referral for people with an alcohol or drug problem.

Local Tel: (08) 8973 8947

Other Support Services

Katherine has a number of support groups and services you can access. Please note that due to the size of the township and its isolation, services are limited.

For more information on other support services and groups, please feel free to contact the Tindal DCO office.

GROW World Community Mental Health Movement

Tel: (08) 8971 3344

Family Planning Association of the NT

Tel (08) 8971 3153

Cancer Council NT – Katherine

Tel: (08) 8971 2022

Australian Breastfeeding Association

Tel: (08) 8411 0301

Good Beginnings Australia (Parenting Support)

Tel: (08) 8972 2800

Anglicare NT

Tel: (08) 8972 1571

Somerville Youth and Family Services

Tel: (08) 8971 1107

Vietnam Veteran Services

Tel: 1800 011 046

Centacare NT – Katherine Family Link

Tel: (08) 8971 0777

Carers NT Inc.

Tel: (08) 8971 2766

CRS Australia

Tel: (08) 8973 0300

Relationships Australia

Tel: 1300 364 277

Autism NT (located in Darwin)

Tel: (08) 8948 4424

YMCA of Katherine Inc.

Tel: (08) 8972 2592

Katherine Women's Information and Legal Service Inc. (KWILS)

Tel: 1800 620 108

Living in the Tropics

Shifting to a tropical climate from the temperate climates down south can result in your body experiencing different stresses and conditions. You could take a few days or weeks to adapt to the hot, humid climate experienced in Katherine – particularly in the wet season. This acclimatisation period can depend on how much time you spend in a fully air-conditioned environment.

During your first few days, try not to overdo things, especially during the hottest part of the day. Make sure you get adequate rest – the heat is much easier to take if you are not run down or over-tired.

Be prepared to take a little extra care with your skin to avoid infections and repeated sunburn, which can increase your chances of skin cancer. Skin conditions such as prickly heat, which can be a problem during your first few months, is most common where perspiration accumulates. Stopping the perspiration accumulating by taking some or all of the following measures can cure it: wear light, loose-fitting clothes of natural fibres such as cotton; take frequent cool baths or showers; use talcum powder regularly. Discuss with your chemist appropriate lotions to reduce itching. Expose the affected area to the sun a little each day.

Dehydration can be a problem in a hot climate, especially with young children. There is no doubt that in the tropics it is necessary to drink more fluids and your sense of thirst is your best guide as to how much you need. Try to develop the habit of drinking non-alcoholic drinks (preferably water or tea) to satisfy thirst.

Sun Smart

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Currently two out of every three Australians develop some form of skin cancer during their lifetime.

Ultraviolet radiation in the Northern Territory remains in a high–extreme category all year round, therefore, we have to be sun smart every day. The good news is that being sun smart is easy!

All you have to do is develop the habit of preparing yourself before you go out into the sun. You can do this by limiting your exposure to the sun, especially between 10am and 3pm when the UV index is at its highest. Make use of the shade and wear clothing that covers as much skin as possible, including a hat with a broad rim, and use a SPF30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.

Pests and Insects

Green ants, cockroaches, sandflies and spiders are common in the Katherine/Tindal area.

A unique feature of tropical life is the presence of geckos (small lizards), which can be seen at night. Geckos are harmless creatures that make a distinctive clicking noise and hunt for insects.

Mosquitoes and sandflies make outdoor living difficult, especially in the wetter months. The use of insect repellents, particularly for children, is considered a normal prelude to any outdoor activity.

Crocodiles

Signs are erected at access points to rivers, creeks, swamps and swimming holes throughout the Northern Territory where there is a danger of estuarine crocodiles. The absence of a warning sign does not mean there are no crocodiles in an area. If in doubt, obtain local advice.

Cane Toads

The cane toad has a secretion on its skin that is poisonous. Young children and pets can be made quite sick if they touch and then eat the secretion. It is essential to take precautions when there might be a cane toad in your yard. Where possible, do not handle cane toads as they respond to threat by turning side-on so their parotoid glands are directed towards the attacker. The venom usually oozes out of the glands, but toads can squirt a fine spray for a short distance if they are handled roughly. The venom is absorbed through mucous membranes such as eyes, mouth and nose, and in humans can cause intense pain, temporary blindness and inflammation. Signs of poisoning in pets (particularly dogs) through ingestion include profuse salivation, twitching, vomiting, shallow breathing and collapse of the hind limbs. In extreme cases, poisoning can result in death.

When handling any frog or toad, protect the eyes, wear gloves and thoroughly wash hands before and after touching the animal. First aid treatment for adults and children includes irrigating (washing with a lot of water) the eyes, mouth and nose if they have been exposed to toad venom. Seek medical attention if symptoms persist. Where pets are concerned, it is advised to seek medical attention through the local vet clinics. Measures can be taken to keep cane toads out of your yard by erecting a small mesh fence (approximately 50cm high) around the bottom of the fence line and by ensuring there are no pools of accumulated water around the home.

Snakes

Due to the dense scrubland surrounding Tindal/Katherine, there is a tendency to find snakes close to residential areas. To protect your home from snakes ensure yards and gardens are well maintained by removing piles of leaves and lawn clippings and keeping your yard clutter free. For snake removal, you can contact Reidy's Reptiles on Tel: 0407 934 252.

Defence Community Groups

Defence Special Needs Support Group (DSNSG)



The DSNSG is a national volunteer organisation established to provide support, information and assistance to Defence families who care for someone with a disability or special need.

Membership is free. Services provided include local support groups, respite program, posting plans, specialised support for adults with special needs, Computers 4 Kids, access to grants, national newsletter, social skill programs for children and much more. For more information, contact the National Office.

National Coordinator
Margaret Fisk
Tel: 1800 037 674
Internet: www.dsnsng.com.au

Defence Families of Australia (DFA)



Defence Families of Australia (DFA) has been representing the views of Defence families for more than 20 years. It is a voluntary group of energetic and dedicated Defence spouses appointed by the Minister assisting the Minister of Defence. We are in the unique position of having access to the minister, senior Defence members and key organisations that directly impact on the lives of Defence families.

DFA's aim is to improve the quality of life for Defence families by providing a recognised forum for their views and by reporting, making recommendations and influencing policy that directly affects families. The DFA Executive attracts volunteers from all services and ranks, to ensure we represent families adequately and understand the issues at all levels. We are all living the unique lifestyle that comes from being married to a Defence member. DFA also recognises that families today are very diverse and face different challenges as they move through their phases of life.

Geographically, DFA volunteers are located all around Australia, representing families at a local, regional and national level. Our national delegates are located in each state and we try to have a senior representative on each base around Australia. We rely on good communication between each other and families in each region to ensure that, when issues are raised, they are taken to the appropriate stakeholder at a local level or, if necessary, raised to a national level.

How can you be involved in DFA?

If you are interested in learning more about DFA, or becoming a volunteer in your area, please contact your local national delegate or check out our website.

Up-to-date family/spouse information is available on our website: www.dfa.org.au.

If you need help or advice:

Tel: 1800 100 509

Tindal Christmas Treat

'Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Bon Voyage friends, welcome to Tindal' ... nothing says it as well as the RAAF Base Tindal Christmas Treat. It's one of the premier events of the Tindal social calendar, as families gather together to celebrate the end of year and the blessed event that is Christmas. A lot of work goes into the planning of the treat by a very enthusiastic committee. The committee meets regularly to initiate a wide range of activities that kids and parents alike can enjoy. The very best part of the Christmas Treat here in Tindal is the marvellous way that everybody gets in and has a go.

We are famous for the friendly atmosphere that pervades the whole event, right through the planning to the wind-up morning tea. It is great fun. The Tindal Christmas Treat Committee welcomes your contributions, ideas and any assistance you wish to offer. Please support the Tindal Christmas Treat.

Other Community Groups

There are a number of other community groups in Tindal, including:

- Tindal Playgroup
- Tindal Tidal Waves Swim Club
- Tindal Creative Craft Group
- Tindal Guides

- Air Force Cadets
- Tin Lids (children’s fun and fitness group)
- *Tindal Community Times (TCT)*.

All groups welcome your contributions, ideas and assistance on committees, so please support the local community groups and get involved.

For more information on the various community groups, please call the DCO office.

DCO Support Activities

To help you settle in to your new environment you can come along to the many DCO support activities. They are a great way to get out and meet others and share information. Our support activities include family fun days, information sessions, morning teas and deployment support functions. Support functions are advertised base-wide as well as in the *Tindal Community Times (TCT)*.

Local Community

The Town of Katherine

Katherine is located above the Tropic of Capricorn in the Top End of the Northern Territory. Darwin is the closest large centre and is about a three-hour drive along the fully sealed Stuart Highway. Between Katherine and Darwin are several small towns, including Pine Creek and Adelaide River. To the south of Katherine along the Stuart Highway are Mataranka (109km), Tennant Creek (664km) and Alice Springs (1,170km). The Victoria Highway runs west from Katherine to Kununurra in Western Australia (476km). These highways are fully sealed but, because of the distances involved, long car trips in the Territory do require some planning.

The town of Katherine is situated on the beautiful Katherine River and is often called the ‘Crossroads of the North’ as it is located on the junction of the Stuart Highway – linking the

north and the south – and the Victoria Highway to Western Australia.

Katherine Hot Springs



Shopping in Katherine

Katherine is a relatively small town, but it services a huge rural area from the Gulf country to the east, and west towards Kununurra. There are three major banks in town, and the Government Centre offers access to all mainstream services.

The Oasis Shopping Centre and the Katherine Terrace shopping precinct include a wide variety of retailers.

The Katherine Tourist Association is more than happy to offer tourism advice to longer-term residents, so make sure you visit the Information Centre as soon as you've settled in.

Climate

Katherine has an inland tropical climate that is characterised by two distinct seasons: the wet season, which is from 1 October to 30 April inclusive, and the dry season, which covers the remainder of the year.

The strongest influence on the wet season is the monsoon, which is quite variable over the northern Australian region; however, it is rare for the monsoon trough not to move over the Top End at least once per season. The wet is characterised by generally hot and humid conditions and periods of heavy rains and thunderstorms. October and November are generally the most oppressive times of the year, with the maximum temperature exceeding 35°C on about 28 days in each month. There is, however, a gradual decrease in the number of days exceeding 35°C in December to less than 15 days in February and March. About 83 per cent of the annual rainfall falls during the months of December, January, February and March, with the thickening clouds and periods of rain providing relief from the extremes of temperature. Winds are generally light and variable tending north-westerly when the monsoon trough moves south of the region.

The dry season extends from May to September and is characterised by mild to warm and generally dry, cloudless conditions, with the south-easterly winds prevailing for most of this period. During May – the first of the dry season months – clear, dry, sunny days increase, with the number of days exceeding 35°C falling to only one. The south-easterly winds reach moderate strength more often, starting from this month. Minimum temperatures during the middle months of June, July and August generally fall to near or below 15°C, with humidity in the general range between 25 per cent and 30 per cent at 3pm. Maximum temperatures still exceed 30°C on about 65 per cent of days in the middle of the dry, but it is rare for temperatures to exceed 35°C.

Katherine's climate is one of the biggest differences people from down south will experience. In general terms, Katherine's climate is hot, and a level of personal discomfort can result during the build-up to the wet season, when high temperatures and high humidity are experienced. During most of the dry season, however, Katherine's climate is extremely pleasant.

Interesting Websites

For more information on what the Katherine has to offer, check out these websites:

- Katherine Town Council
Internet: www.ktc.nt.gov.au
- Katherine Region Online
Internet: www.krol.com.au
- Katherine Region Tourist Association
Internet: www.krta.com.au
- Northern Territory Government
Internet: www.nt.gov.au
- NT Tourist Commission
Internet: www.ntholidays.com.au

General Services

Banking

Most major banking institutions and ATMs are available in Katherine and Tindal.

■ In Katherine:

Commonwealth Bank

Tel: (08) 8972 1955

ANZ Bank

Tel: (08) 8972 2199

Westpac Bank

Tel: (08) 8972 2199

Bendigo Bank

Tel: (08) 8972 1784

■ In Tindal:

Defcredit

Tel: (08) 8973 6335

Australian Defence Credit Union

Tel: (08) 8971 7438

ATM located at Frontline

Post office is an agent for Commonwealth Bank

Electoral Information

It is a requirement of the law to ensure that you inform the Australian Electoral Commission of your change of address. You can do this by completing an Electoral Enrolment Form and returning it in the supplied free-post envelope. Forms are available at DCO or at the Katherine and Tindal post offices.

Centrelink

There is a Centrelink office located in Second Street, Katherine.

Handy numbers for Centrelink are:

Appointments Line

Tel: 13 10 21

Disability, Sickness or Carers

Tel: 13 27 17

Employment

Tel: 13 28 50

Families

Tel: 13 61 50

Youth and Students

Tel: 13 24 90

Churches

St Peter's Chapel is located on the Base.

In Katherine religious services are provided by:

AIM Bethel

Tel: (08) 8972 1214

St Paul's Anglican Church

Tel: (08) 8972 1493

Christian Outreach Centre

Tel: (08) 8971 1720

Jehovah's Witness

Tel: (08) 8972 1269

Katherine Baptist Church

Tel: (08) 8972 1949

Katherine Uniting Church

Tel: (08) 8972 1430

Lutheran Church of Australia

Tel: (08) 8972 3338

St Joseph's Catholic Church
Tel: (08) 8971 1460

Assemblies of God
Tel: (08) 8972 3631

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Tel: (08) 8972 1321

Salvation Army
Tel: (08) 8972 3732

Public Library Service

■ Katherine Public Library

Randazzo Centre, Katherine Tce, Katherine
Tel: (08) 8971 1188
Opening hours:
Closed Sunday, Monday and public holidays

Tues: 8.30am–5pm

Wed, Thurs and Fri: 10am–5pm

Saturday: 10am–1pm

■ Katherine Toy Library:

28 First St, Katherine
Tel: (08) 8971 2300

Television Stations

There are four TV channels: 7 Central (QLD),
Imparjia, SBS and ABC.

Austar is available, should you wish to be connected. Most service residences are equipped with the appropriate fixtures to have Austar connected. For service residences without the appropriate fixtures, the member is required to apply for Austar connection through DHA, giving permission to have fixtures placed within the service residence.
Tel: (08) 8972 8000

Media/Press

■ Tindal Community Times (TCT)

Run by volunteers, this monthly publication keeps you informed on all upcoming events in Tindal and Katherine.

■ Katherine Times

Local Katherine paper issued each Wednesday.

■ NT News

Northern Territory paper available daily.

■ Interstate Newspapers

You can also arrange to receive interstate papers through the local Katherine Newsagency Top End News.
Tel: (08) 8971 1203

Radio Stations

While living in the Top End, you can tune in to a number of radio stations:

- Katherine FM Community Radio – 101.3FM
- Triple J – 88.5FM
- CAARMA 8KIN FM – 104.5FM
- Hot 100 – 106.9FM
- ABC NT Radio – 106.1AM
- TAB Radio – 103.7FM.

Motoring Organisations

Automobile Association of the Northern Territory (AANT)

There is no AANT located in Katherine, however for AANT assistance contact:

Tel: (08) 8981 3837

Internet: www.aant.com.au

Essential Services

Electricity

For connection, please call Tel: 1800 245 090 or apply over the counter at Power and Water Corporation, located in the Government Centre, Katherine.

Telephone and Internet Connection

Connection can be made by calling Telstra

Tel: 13 22 00

Dial-up and broadband internet connection are available in Tindal and Katherine.

Mobile Phone Coverage

It has been noted that the best mobile phone reception is received by mobile phones with Telstra coverage. Mobile phones that have plans with Vodafone and Optus will experience difficulty receiving reception in Tindal, however, they will have reception in the Katherine township.

Reception coverage for all mobile phones is sporadic along the main highways, with most phones being able to pick up reception near townships. It has been noted that mobile phones with the new Next G coverage receive better reception along these roads, however, they can still experience reception drop-out from time to time.

Garbage Collection

Monday: Tindal area

Tuesday: Katherine North, Florina Rd and Victoria Hwy

Wednesday: Katherine South, Zimmin Dr and north side of the Stuart Hwy

Thursday: Katherine East

Friday: Byers Rd, south side of the Stuart Hwy

Waste Management Station

Victoria Hwy

Tel: (08) 8971 2014

Opening hours: Monday–Friday,
7.30am–5.30pm

Weekends and public holidays, 8am–4pm

Transport

Defence Driving Licence Scheme

The Defence Driving Licence Scheme (DDLS) for ADF personnel and eligible members of their families does not apply in the Northern Territory. This means that you must obtain an NT driver's licence.

Vehicle/Boat Registration and Driver's Licences

It is a legal requirement that all new NT residents transfer their vehicle registration within three months of arriving. Failure to do so deems your vehicle unregistered

In the NT, a private pleasure craft doesn't require registration, however, boat trailers are required to be registered. For more information, please call the Motor Vehicle Registry.
Tel: 1300 654 628

Bicycles, Bike Helmets and Bike Paths

There are a number of bike paths located around Katherine and Tindal. One of the more popular is the path that runs from Katherine to Tindal, which is used frequently by Defence members who choose to cycle to work.

It is compulsory for all people to wear a bike helmet at all times while riding their bike. People over the age of 18 do not have to wear a helmet if they are riding along designated bike paths, however, when crossing roads you are required to dismount your bike and walk across the road.

Coaches/Buses

Apart from the school bus runs each morning and afternoon, there is currently no regular bus service provided between Katherine and Tindal. There is no bus service in Katherine. Coach travel is available if needing to travel out of the Katherine region.

Taxi Services

Taxis are available and can be contacted on Tel: (08) 8972 1777.

Airport

Katherine Airport is located between Katherine and Tindal; however, there are no domestic air services out of Katherine.

Railway Services

The Ghan is the only passenger train that is available in Katherine. It passes through Katherine on a regular basis and bookings can be made for travel through local travel agents.

Pet Care

A number of veterinary surgeries operate in the Katherine area. For more details, check the Yellow Pages.

Internet: <http://www.yellowpages.com.au>

Pet Relocation Allowance

Once a removal has been approved, a member is entitled to reimbursement of reasonable costs associated with the relocation of their pets. Receipts should be presented to DHA for processing. For more information please call DHA on Tel: 1800 249 711.

Dog Registration

It is a requirement to ensure that your dog(s) are registered with the Katherine Town Council each year. Registration fees are to be paid annually in July. For more information, phone the council.

Tel: (08) 8972 5500

Kennels and Catteries

■ Taggerty Kennels

Sheena Drennan

Tel: (08) 8971 2652

Cnr Jaensch Rd and George Rd, Katherine

There are also a number of kennels and catteries located in Darwin. Please call the FLO for more information.

Emergency Information

Severe Storms and Flooding

With the wet season comes the possible threat of severe storms and flooding. After severe flooding occurred in 1998, Katherine Emergency Services put together a Flood and Emergency Information Pack that details how you should prepare for such emergencies.

You can pick up a Flood and Emergency Information Pack from the Emergency Service Complex on Stuart Hwy, Katherine East and from DCO Tindal.

Important Numbers

Tindal

Switch

Tel: (08) 8973 7111

Base Command Post

Tel: (08) 8973 6888

Defence Community Organisation Reception

Tel: (08) 8973 7134

Chaplain – Roman Catholic

Tel: (08) 8973 6032

Chaplain – Protestant

Tel: (08) 8973 6033

Defence Housing Australia (DHA) Reception

Tel: (08) 8972 8000

DHA After Hours Emergencies

Tel: 1300 366 615

DHA Customer Service Line (Complaints etc.)

Tel: 1800 249 711

Toll Transitions Darwin Office

Tel: (08) 8947 2566

Toll Customer Service Line

Tel: 1800 819 167

Katherine

Police, Fire and Emergency Complex

Tel: (08) 8973 8000

Ambulance (Admin only)

Tel: (08) 8973 8555

Hospital

Tel: (08) 8972 9211

Kintore Clinic – Doctor's Surgery

Tel: (08) 8972 1677



Australian Government

Department of Defence