

The DSM at DHSS



Welcome to our school!

My name is Karen Cameron.

I am familiar with the experience of transitioning into new schools, postings and deployments as I am a partner of a Defence Force Member and I have 3 primary school age children.

I have over 15 years experience in the Early Childhood-Education and Education Support roles within primary schools.

My role within the school as a DSM is to provide support and assistance to defence students and their families during their time at Deebing Heights State School. The DSM is part of the Inclusive Welfare Support Team who promote student wellbeing and resilience, which are essential for social, and academic development.

If I can be assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me, I look forward to meeting the Defence students and their families.

I am located in the Administration Building and have an open door policy, appointments can be made by contacting me on T: 3280 3222 or

Email: kcame122@eq.edu.au

My hours are 11am-3pm Tuesday and Thursday, 9-1pm Friday

Useful Contact Information

Defence School Mentor

Karen Cameron

Email: kcame122@eq.edu.au

Defence Family Helpline

1800 624 608

Providing support, advice and connections with the local community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The DFH is staffed by qualified Human Services professionals including social workers and psychologists

(DCO) The Brisbane Office for the **Defence Community Organisation** is located at 71 Osborne Rd, Mitchelton.

School Information

Address: 81 Rawlings Road
Deebing Heights QLD 4306
Telephone: (07) 3280 3222
WWW www.deebingheightss.eq.edu.au
Email: admin@deebingheightss.eq.edu.au



Deebing Heights State School

- ⇒ Be Safe
- ⇒ Be Responsible
- ⇒ Be Respectful
- ⇒ Be a Learner

Defence School Mentor
(DSM)

Welcome to Deebing Heights State School

This is a new position at Deebing Heights State School (2019) and is a great opportunity to establish a foundation of help and support through the school and Defence community to meet the needs of Defence children and their families. In consultation with the DCO—Defence Community Organisation support services and utilising the resources and outstanding Teachers and Support Staff at the school. I see the opportunity to implement some wonderful strategies for current and future defence children and their families.

Deebing Heights State School opened January 2016. There are 434 students currently enrolled at the school, it is a co-educational state school, that caters to prep to year 6 students. The school is expected to grow to approximately 1,000 students by 2026.

The Role of the DSM

Defence families live a unique lifestyle that can place many demands on the family unit. Changing schools every couple of years is just one of the many challenges faced by Defence students during their schooling careers. The DSM is available to support students of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members, particularly during their transition in and out of school on posting or during parental absence due to deployment, exercises or courses.



The Defence School Mentor provides support to Defence students and their families in a variety of ways, including:

- Helping to familiarise students and families with the school and its facilities
- Coordinating welcome, and farewell events along with a lunch time activities
- Monitoring social, emotional and academic wellbeing of Defence students
- Supporting students to develop self-confidence and resilience

- Providing a point of contact for parents and students, acting as a link between home and school
- Enhancing awareness and appreciation of the unique Defence lifestyle in schools and communities
- Directing students to programs, services or opportunities that suit their needs including programs offered by DCO
- Providing support to children during times of parental absence

RAAF Base Amberley

The need for a RAAF base in Brisbane was identified in the 1930s. 882 acres (357 ha) of land near Ipswich was gazetted for defence purposes on 12 December 1938. The base was initially planned to house a general purpose squadron with 300 officers and men. At the outbreak of World War II the handful of brick buildings were still incomplete and many extra buildings were constructed quickly using wood and fibro. The base opened in June 1940 with the first unit based there being No. 24 Squadron. From May 1942 the base changed roles from flying operations to mainly assembly and repair of aircraft.

The US facilities were transferred to Australia in 1947.^[4] After the war it became the base for the RAAF's heavy bombers operated by No. 1, No. 2 and No. 6 squadrons. The reserve No. 23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron relocated from RAAF Station Archerfield to Amberley in 1955.

RAAF Base Amberley

RAAF Base Amberley (ICAO: **YAMB**) is a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) military airbase located 8 km (5.0 mi) southwest of Ipswich, Queensland in Australia and 50 km (31 mi) southwest of Brisbane. It is currently home to No. 1 Squadron and No. 6 Squadron (operating the F/A-18F Super Hornet), No. 33 Squadron (taking delivery of the Airbus KC-30A) and No. 36 Squadron (operating the Boeing C-17 Globemaster III jet transport). Amberley is also home to Army units making up the 9th Force Support Battalion (9 FSB). Located on 1,600 hectares (4,000 acres), RAAF Amberley is the largest operational base in the RAAF, employing over 5,000 uniformed and civilian personnel.^[2] There are a variety of other formations on the base such as training colleges and maintenance areas. Amberley's largest squadron in terms of personnel is No. 382 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron RAAF (ECSS) providing both garrison and deployed combat support. Amberley was one of only two airfields in Australia (the other being Darwin International Airport) that were listed as a Transoceanic Abort (TOA) landing site for the Space Shuttle.^[3] Amberley is currently undergoing a A\$64 million dollar re-development program. The RAAF has plans to have Amberley operating as its "superbase" with flights of F/A-18F Super Hornets, F-35 Lightning II, KC-30A, C-17 Globemaster. No. 35 Squadron (Operating C-27J Spartan) is planned to move to the base from RAAF Base Richmond after it is fully equipped with the C-27J.

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