



Australian Defence Force Support to Residential Aged Care Facilities

About Aged Care Assist

The Australian Defence Force has personnel in all jurisdictions to support residential aged care facilities impacted by COVID-19.

Support available to RACFs is in two main forms, medical teams and general duties teams.

If you are unsure if ADF teams are the right fit for you, please discuss with the Commonwealth case management team in your state or territory, as configuration, duties and duration of deployment can be adapted to meet your needs.

Medical Teams

Teams of ADF personnel including Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses and general duties can be deployed to RACFs to supplement both clinical and non-clinical workforce. These teams are generally deployed for a one-week duration.

Configurations of these teams can be flexible to meet the RACFs needs.

General Duties Teams

Teams of ADF general duties personnel can assist with non-clinical duties such as:

- resident communication with families
- companionship
- meal delivery
- general cleaning
- staff and visitor screening
- administration and logistics.

While these are not clinical teams, they can reduce the burden on your clinical staff by taking on non-clinical functions.

Please talk to the Commonwealth case management team in your state or territory about your workforce needs and if an Australian Defence Force team may be able to assist you.

Working with ADF teams

Please note the following:

- The Approved Provider remains responsible for the facility at all times including utilising the ADF teams appropriately.
- ADF teams can be made available anywhere in Australia.
- ADF personnel will be in uniform.
- RACFs will have the opportunity to discuss their needs directly with ADF once agreed by the Commonwealth Case Manager.
- RACF will be responsible for providing an on-site induction to ADF personnel prior to commencement of shifts.
- ADF personnel have undertaken training in IPC and aged care and will have all required vaccinations in line with state and territory public health orders.

Managing media attention

The Australian Defence Force's support to the aged care sector as part of the Australian Government's COVID-19 response is attracting media attention.

If you are approached by media you can use the below response to decline access:

In the interests of protecting the safety and privacy of residents and staff and to ensure attendance does not compromise RACF COVID-19 safety protocols, we are not currently facilitating media presence at our facility. Thank you for your interest and the opportunity.

The Department of Defence is providing photos and footage for media, and will continue to update this gallery.

Please find imagery here: <http://images.defence.gov.au/S20220206>

Video News Release is available here:

<https://innovatehub.sharepoint.com/:f/s/mediahub/EkcBmEKWAT1MscNeZHdvCj0B4vp1D0DwxZy8TNz3gvfRyA?e=0LICow>

Remember, if your service or facility is approached by media in your local area to participate in media and publicity opportunities, it's your decision as to whether your service participates.

If you have questions, contact the Department of Health's Media Team at news@health.gov.au.