



RETURNED & SERVICES  
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA  
QUEENSLAND BRANCH

# THE DEFENCE FAMILY IN QUEENSLAND: A statewide snapshot

## HOW BIG IS THE DEFENCE FAMILY IN QUEENSLAND?

**21,928**  
In service

**174,730**  
Ex-service

**67,602**  
spouses and carers

=

*Approximate Total*  
**264,260\***  
7% of total adult population

An additional **480,000** people have a connection to Defence through another immediate family member or friend.

\* Numbers include reservists. In service number is actual; ex-service and spouse numbers are approximations based on research, with a margin of error of +/-4.38%.

## WHICH SERVICE DID THEY SERVE IN?



*Army*

**67%**



*Air Force*

**19%**

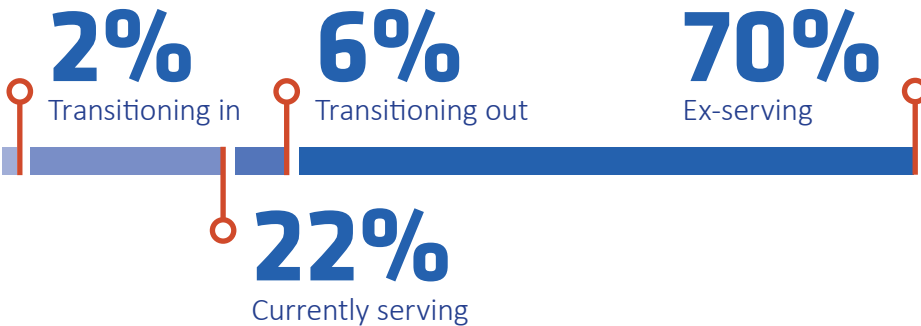


*Navy*

**17%**

**3%** of our Defence family served in more than one service.

## WHAT STAGE OF THEIR DEFENCE CAREER ARE THEY CURRENTLY AT?



## WHO ARE OUR DEFENCE FAMILY?



**19%**  
female



**81%**  
male

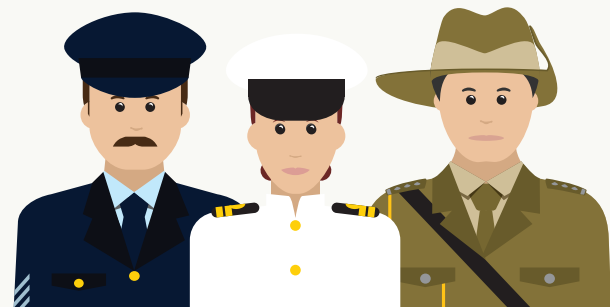
**68%** aged over 50

**32%** aged under 50

## About this report

RSL Queensland commissioned an extensive research project to understand who the Defence Family in Queensland are, and what key needs and challenges they face. The research was undertaken between August 2017 and April 2018, and included interviews, focus groups and survey participation, incorporating current and former serving members of the ADF, their spouses and carers, and the general public, and key industry and government stakeholders.

The results will enable RSL Queensland to advocate effectively on behalf of the Defence Family and address the areas of greatest need in this community. RSL Queensland will use these findings to shape our strategic direction.





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## ARE THEIR NEEDS BEING MET?

# 100%

say they currently have a need

9 in 10 Defence members



have at least one unmet need

## WHAT ARE THE KEY AREAS OF NEED?

### Employment



# 15%

say finding employment is a significant challenge

# 61%

of spouses of those currently serving are struggling to find work

### Physical and Mental Health



# 63%

have at least one medical or physical condition

# 42%

suffer from at least one mental health condition or need general mental health support

### Financial Planning and Assistance



# 4 IN 10

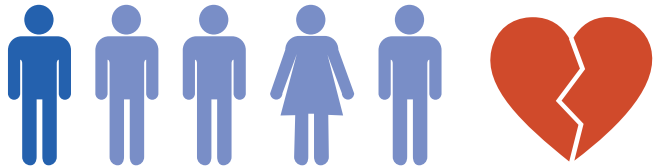
see finances as a key challenge

Many are struggling with income levels and managing and planning for their financial future.

OVER **1/3**

said that DVA claims are a major issue in their life

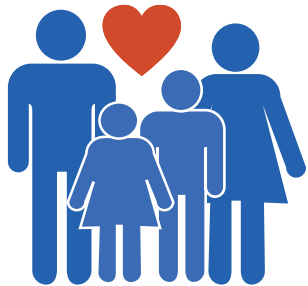
### Relationships



1 in 5 struggles with personal relationships

## WHICH GROUPS HAVE THE GREATEST NEEDS?

### Families



# 34%

have children under 18

# 57%

emotional support for their children

### Transition out

Those transitioning out are:

**MORE LIKELY**

to face challenges with finances, family situations, employment, personal and community relationships than at any other stage.

**33%** are currently **UNEMPLOYED**

**81%** Did not find **ADF PROGRAMS USEFUL**