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A Win for Single ADF Personnel

DFWA President David Jamison welcomed the announcement in the Service newspapers this week that ADF single members will no longer have to move from their rented accommodation when they deploy overseas.

Under previous policy, a single member living in rental accommodation and receiving Rental Allowance was required to move out of his or her accommodation and put their belongings into storage. When they returned from the overseas deployment they had to find new accommodation, which in many locations is particularly scarce, and then they had to get their furniture, clothes and other personal effects out of storage, often while preparing for a new posting.

Unless they relied on the goodwill of friends or family, single ADF personnel returned to Australia with just the clothes and belongings that they had with them on deployment. Under the previous policy, getting access to basic necessities like their civilian clothes and items such as personal computers, personal records and the like was subject to their finding a place to live.

In its submission to an inquiry into Defence Mental Health Care Services last month, DFWA pointed out that the policy increased the stress on returning personnel, who may also be suffering other mental health effects of their deployment. DFWA is pleased that its concerns have now been recognized and the policy amended.

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