

BOMS

Breakdown Of Marriage Support

Strength • Integrity • Wisdom

Mission Statement

- To provide information support to ADF spouses & children experiencing a Breakdown Of Marriage
- To provide information, services, in the transition to civilian single life
- To provide education, awareness of ADF BOM issues to Government & private sector groups
- To advocate for services, recognition, research, awareness of ADF BOM issues
- To assist in the prevention of an ADF Breakdown Of Relationship whether married, de facto, same sex relationship

Aims

- To provide safe support forum for those experiencing distress, coping difficulties in a BOM
- To educate general public, professional bodies, defence community, tri service health, ADF, DFA, DCO, Veterans Affairs, State & Federal Police, Military Police, Ministers about the concerns, needs recently separated ADF families.
- To provide appropriate resources, referrals to members experiencing mental health issues as a result of BOM
- To assist where possible the repair of marriage by referring couples counselling services
- To assist in transition from ADF family to civilian life
- To refer services & collate information to aid in prevention of ADF BOM situations
- To work with Veteran community in research, funding, awareness and prevention strategies
- To work with Government and Corporate organisations in research, funding, awareness and prevention strategies
- To increase quality of communication between all parties concerned

- ❖ Require funding website of information resources
- ❖ Require direct connection to services in welfare sectors

- Refer mediation services
- Information legal rights & entitlements
- Information on financial impact, resources
- Refer appropriate counselling services
- Housing instability addressing solutions, safe housing
- Ensure safety all parties concerned inc ADF children
- Information and referral health, medical services
- Upskilling, training, education, courses, career
- Regaining confidence post BOM, clubs, community
- Special needs children resources

Objectives

To ensure safety of all members facing an ADF BOM

- To have direct blood line children of a full time serving member and veteran recognised for services within Defence Community, regardless of 90 day definition of a dependent (welfare, legal & emotional abuse issue)
- Raw data 'tick box' initiated across national civilian departments of relationship to an ADF member, current and former (Domestic Dysfunction data)
- In Domestic Violence (DV) situation provide appropriate resources. Liaise with appropriate departments to ensure safety of ADF spouse and ADF children during & post separation
- In threat to life situation (TTL), threat of physical harm, provide appropriate resources liaise with appropriate departments to ensure safety of ADF spouse and ADF children during & post separation
- Advocate for rental reference to be issued upon separation on par with civilian rental references (ensure safe housing)
- Create partnerships with organisations to fast track services for separating families re- 28 days to vacate rule
- Create education, training and 'upskilling' for former partners impacted by serving persons career progression, deployments, constant moves, isolation
- Advocate for a safe house where ADF spouse upon separation in a DV situation or TTL can find safe housing as a temporary measure.
- Emergency accommodation for those facing homelessness as a result of BOM. For members once considered backbone of ADF the threat of homelessness is a very real possibility.
- Advocate for a meeting place, to meet others who were part of ADF family who have gone through similar. House BOMSupport

group meetings, office in each State. (can be attached to a current Government department)

- A bi annual welfare check on ADF children to ensure they are in safe lodging, no threat of harm and health measures in place for their emotional and physical wellbeing.
- To advocate for a 24hour helpline to assist in referring resources to those in a DV emotionally abusive relationship, TTL and or feelings of suicide. (educate current departments on unique needs of BOMS members and defence families)
- To advocate for liaison for ADF special needs children to aid with financial assistance ongoing care
- To advocate for a case officer liaison bwtm BOMs and military departments, police departments when safety is a concern. For direct chain of evidence between BOMS and current legal enforcement departments.

Collating RESEARCH

As per our mission to advocate for services, recognition, research, awareness of ADF BOM issues

Currently collaborating with Australian Families Of Military Research Foundation, Legacy South Australia and in talks with SA Repat Foundation. Working together on research for our first project on 'Domestic Dysfunction' impacting ADF families, both former and current.

AFOM is an independent research organisation, it is not run by a government organisation associated with the ADF

- What are the issues leading to a BOM situation in ADF?
- What are the issues facing single spouses with ADF children?
- What measures if any, can be put in place for prevention BOM?
- What is the homicide rate of partners, separated, de-facto, married?
- What is the suicide rate of partners, current and former including attempts?
- What is the suicide rate of children, including attempts?
- What is the homelessness, welfare and housing instability rate for former partners?
- What type of quantitative data is available to measure state of mental health serving member and ADF family members? i.e. Are there accurate ADF divorce rate statistics post deployments? Is research avail pertaining to links mental health decline resulting in family relationship breakdown? (BOMS can supply qualitative data as to this affect)
- National implementation of 'tick box' to collate demographic, raw data on issues facing military relationships from private and government sector departments (open transparent evidence)
- Are there cultural issues within ADF that can be improved to be more family friendly. i.e. mental health care, systemic value system in place e.g. moral integrity top down
- Is there a PTSD link leading to BOM situation?
- Will new pathways of change encourage healthier ADF relationships and less BOM, threat to life situations?

Encourage emotional support code of, 'You Are Not Alone' & 'We're All In This Together'

By forging relationships with ESO's, ADF departments, Government Departments, Public and Private sector, Community support, Community leaders

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