



# Security clearances—information for transitioning ADF members

## Defence Community Organisation

### The Australian Government Security Vetting Agency (AGSVA) processes and grants Australian Government security clearances.

**Australian Defence Force (ADF) members transitioning from the ADF do not automatically have their security clearance cancelled upon transition.**

An ADF member's security clearance becomes inactive until the security officer responsible for the new employment area (known as the new sponsor) requests the reactivation of the security clearance through AGSVA.

#### AGSVA RESPONSIBILITIES

AGSVA is the authority for Australian Government security clearances and has final determination on the granting/revoking/denying and reactivating of all security clearances.

AGSVA requires that for a security clearance to remain active, the employee needs a current government sponsor. For work outside of the Government i.e. work performed by our Industry partners, clearance subjects must be sponsored by a Government contract manager.

Clearances granted by AGSVA are portable across agencies excluding the following authorised (exempt) agencies:

- Australian Security Intelligence Organisation;
- Australian Secret Intelligence Organisation; and
- Office of National Assessments.

- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Australian Federal Police are also authorised agencies, however they may recognise AGSVA clearances at their discretion.

Authorised agencies have their own security processes and policies with which clearance subjects should comply.

#### ADF MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Where a member is transitioning from the ADF, they are responsible for informing their security officer who will alert AGSVA.

On transition from the ADF, the member is responsible for informing AGSVA of a change in their personal circumstances for example any change to their income and work details.

ADF Transition will ensure that the transitioning member is aware of their responsibilities to conduct a security clearance before transitioning from the permanent ADF.



## SECURITY CLEARANCE VALIDATION PERIOD

The security clearance remains valid for the original period as granted by AGSVA, which is as follows:

- Baseline Vetting—15 years
- Negative Vetting Level 1—10 years  
Negative Vetting Level 2—5 to 7 years
- Positive Vetting—5 to 7 years.

## REACTIVATING A SECURITY CLEARANCE

Security clearances can be reactivated by AGSVA in accordance with the following protocols:

- An inactive Baseline or Negative Vetting level security clearance can be reactivated if it is within the revalidation period and sponsorship is being provided by an Australian Government agency or an organisation registered with the Defence Industry Security Program.
- A Positive Vetting level security clearance can be reactivated if it is within the revalidation period; the clearance has been maintained via an annual security check; and sponsorship is being provided by an Australian Government agency.
- Before a decision on a reactivation can occur:
  - the security officer/adviser needs to confirm sponsorship and advise AGSVA accordingly
  - the member may be required to make a notification of changes in personal circumstances to AGSVA
  - the member may also be required to undergo additional assessments and background checks.

## SECURITY CLEARANCE CANCELLATION

Where a transitioned member has remained out of contact with the ADF/AGSVA for the period extending beyond the validation period, their security clearance will be cancelled and the member will be required to go through the complete security clearance assessment process again.

Defence Community Organisation offers a wide range of support services for the ADF members and their families.

For more information on ADF Transition or other Defence Community Organisation information or programs, visit the Defence Community Organisation website at [www.defence.gov.au/dco](http://www.defence.gov.au/dco)

Contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on **1800 624 608** or email us at

[defencefamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au](mailto:defencefamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au)

For more information on security clearances visit the AGSVA website at [www.defence.gov.au/AGSVA](http://www.defence.gov.au/AGSVA)

