

Aged Care Rules 2025: Summary of key changes

The *Aged Care Rules 2025* (Rules) provide further detail and explanation of how the *Aged Care Act 2024* (Act) will work. The Rules are published on the <u>Federal Register of Legislation</u>. The Rules take effect from 1 November 2025.

Overview

This document provides a summary of changes to the Rules since the release of an Exposure Draft of the consolidated Rules on 31 July 2025.

The changes improve the logic and flow of the Rules and address numbering, typographic and grammatical errors.

The major changes are listed below for each chapter of the Rules. A detailed comparative table of the changes is provided at the end of this fact sheet.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

- Refinements to definitions for further clarity and cross references to provisions in the Act and Rules where applicable.
- Small adjustments to the Aged Care Service List regarding capital depreciation and the Transition Care Program, with no policy implications.
- Inclusion of provisions regarding supporters and registration of supporters.

Chapter 2 - Entry to the Commonwealth Aged Care System

 Reordering of provisions to improve logical flow and alignment with departmental systems.

- Additional detail about circumstances which should be considered in relation to aged care needs re-assessments.
- Additional detail about circumstances and information required to assess and re-assess individuals' classification types and levels.
- New provisions related to the classification type 'ongoing', for the service group Assistive Technology—assistance dog.
- New provisions setting out arrangements for transfer of places for the Multi-Purpose Service Program.

Chapter 3 – Provider registration

 The inclusion of the full range of application and audit fees, which had not been finalised in time for inclusion in the Exposure Draft, however were available on the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's website.

Chapter 4 – Conditions on provider registration

- Refinements to address technical drafting matters regarding service delivery provisions.
- Reordering of provisions to improve logical flow and readability.

Chapter 5 – Registered provider, responsible person and aged care worker obligations

Reordering of provisions to improve logical flow and readability.

Chapter 7 – Funding of aged care services—Commonwealth contributions

- Refinements to address inconsistencies between the Rules and departmental systems, as well as adjustments to align the Rules with the intended policy outcomes.
- Amendments in relation to various subsidies and supplements, as well as updating figures, to align with indexation ahead of commencement from 1 November 2025.

Chapter 8 – Funding of aged care services—individual fees and contributions

 Refinements to restructure the residential care provisions dealing with pre and post-contribution classes, to assist with readability and co-locate funding provisions for both transitional and new world classes.

Chapter 9 – Funding of aged care services—accommodation payments and accommodation contributions etc.

- New provisions about amounts that must be deducted from refundable deposit balances and circumstances in which a retention amount may be refunded.
- Refinements to ensure alignment between the Rules and the Act relating to the indexation of the higher maximum accommodation payment amounts.

Chapter 10 – Funding of aged care services—means testing

- Amendments to specify the information required to make determinations and to ensure relevant provisions are amenable to automation, and
- Refinements to make it easier for older people to see all means testing Rules in one place.

Chapter 14 - Miscellaneous

- New provisions about application fees and fees for services provided by the System Governor, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner and Aged Care Complaints Commissioner.
- These were not included in the Exposure Draft of the Rules as the fees had not been finalised at that time.

Aged Care Rules 2025 – Key Numbering and Title Changes from Exposure Draft

The purpose of this table is to show changes to the order and naming of Subdivisions and Sections of the final Aged Care Rules from the earlier Exposure Draft of the Rules.

Aged Care Rules 2025	Exposure Draft (31 July 2025)	
Chapter 1 – Introduction		
Section 7-21 – Price Charged	Not in ED	
Part 8 – Supporters	Not in ED	
Chapter 2 – Entry to the Commonwealth aged care system		
Section 98-5 – Transfer of places	Not in ED	
Chapter 3 – Provider registration		
Section 110-45 – Audit Fee—audit in connection with registration	Section 110-45 – Audit Fee—application for registration	
Section 110-47 – Audit fee—audit in connection with registration renewal	Section 110-47 – Audit fee—application for renewal of registration	
Section 110-49 – Audit fee—audit in connection with variation of registration	Section 110-49 – Audit fee—application for variation of registration	
Section 110-5 – Audit fee—refunds	Not in ED	
Chapter 4 – Conditions on provider registra	ation	
Section 148-33 – Providers delivering services under provider registration category residential care—services that must be delivered	Not in ED	
Subdivision B – Information provided to an individual	Subdivision R – Information provided to an individual	
Section 154-2 – Requirement to keep and retain information provided to an individual	Section 154-3300 – Requirement to keep and retain information provided to an individual	
Section 154-3 – Requirement to correct personal information	Section 154-3500 – Requirement to correct personal information	
Subdivision C – Vaccination	Subdivision B – Vaccination	

Aged Care Rules 2025	Exposure Draft (31 July 2025)
Subdivision D – Quality Indicators	Subdivision C – Quality Indicators
Subdivision E – Incidents	Subdivision N – Incidents
Section 154-150 – Records about details of incidents	Section 154-3000 – Records about details of incidents
Subdivision F – Complaints and feedback	Subdivision D – Complaints and feedback
Subdivision G – Prudential and financial	Subdivision E – Prudential and financial
Section 154-300 – Requirement to keep and retain financial and prudential reports	Section 154-315 – Requirement to keep and retain financial and prudential reports
Subdivision H – CHSP	Subdivision F – CHSP
Section 154-400 – Application of Subdivision	Section 154-600 – Application of Subdivision
Section 154-405 – Requirements for records	Section 154-605 – Requirements for records
Subdivision J – NATSIFACP	Subdivision G – NATSIFACP
Section 154-500 – Application of Subdivision	Section 154-600 – Application of Subdivision
Section 154-505 – Requirements for records	Section 154-615 – Requirements for records
Subdivision K – Multi Purpose Service Program	Subdivision L – Multi Purpose Service Program
Section 154-605 – Application of Subdivision to certain registered providers	Section 154-1205 – Application of Subdivision to certain registered providers
Section 154-610 – Requirements for records	Section 154-1210 – Requirements for records
Subdivision L – Transition Care Program	Subdivision M – Transition Care Program
Section 154-650 – Application of Subdivision to certain registered providers	Section 154-1215 – Application of Subdivision to certain registered providers
Section 154-665 – Requirements for records	Section 154-1220 – Requirements for records
Subdivision M – Governing Bodies	Subdivision H – Governing Bodies
Subdivision N – Advisory Bodies	Subdivision J – Advisory Bodies

Aged Care Rules 2025	Exposure Draft (31 July 2025)	
Subdivision P – Worker Screening	Subdivision K – Worker Screening	
Section 154-900 – Records of responsible persons	Section 154-1110 – Records of responsible persons	
Section 154-905 – Records of aged care workers	Section 154-1120 – Records of aged care workers	
Section 154-910 – How long records required by sections 154-900 and 154-905 to be kept	Section 154-1125 – How long records required by sections 154-1110 and 154-1120 to be kept	
Section 154-915 – Copies of records relating to allegations of misconduct	Section 154-1135 – Copies of records relating to allegations of misconduct	
Subdivision Q – Delivery and continuity of funded aged care services	Subdivision P – Delivery and continuity of funded aged care services	
Section 154-1000 – Requirement to keep and retain records relating to continuity of funded aged care services	Section 154-3100 – Requirement to keep and retain records relating to continuity of funded aged care services	
Subdivision R – Status of service delivery branches	Subdivision Q – Status of service delivery branches	
Section 154-1100 – Requirement to keep and retain records about service delivery branches	Section 154-3200 – Requirement to keep and retain records about service delivery branches	
Section 154-1200 – Application of this Subdivision	Section 154-3400 – Application of this Subdivision	
Section 154-1205 – Requirement to keep and retain records which enable claims for payment of subsidy to be verified	Section 154-3410 – Requirement to keep and retain records which enable claims for payment of subsidy to be verified	
Section 154-1300 – Requirement to keep and retain records relating to compliance	Section 154-3415 – Requirement to keep and retain records relating to compliance	
Chapter 5 – Registered provider, responsible person and aged care worker obligations		
Removed – now exists in new section 166- 205	Subdivision A – Application of Division to feedback received	
Subdivision A – Vaccination	Subdivision B – Vaccination	
Subdivision B – Quality indicators	Subdivision C – Quality indicators	
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Aged Care Rules 2025	Exposure Draft (31 July 2025)
Subdivision C – Complaints and feedback management report	Subdivision D – Complaints and feedback management report
Section 166-205 – Application of subdivision	Section 166-205 – Application of subdivision to certain registered providers
Subdivision D – Complaints and feedback information on request	Subdivision E – Complaints and feedback information on request
Subdivision E – Prudential and financial	Subdivision F – Prudential and financial
Subdivision F – CHSP	Subdivision G – CHSP
Subdivision G – NATSIFACP	Subdivision H – NATSIFACP
Subdivision H – Multi-Purpose Service Program	Subdivision K – Multi-Purpose Service Program
Subdivision J – Transition Care Program	Subdivision L – Transition Care Program
Subdivision K – Governing bodies	Subdivision J – Governing bodies
Section 166-800 – Application of this Subdivision	Section 166-700 – Application of this Subdivision
Section 166-805 – Governing bodies must prepare and provide statements	Section 166-705 – Governing bodies must prepare and provide statements
Section 166-810 – Requirements for certain registered providers to give information relating to reporting periods	Section 166-710 – Requirements for certain registered providers to give information relating to reporting periods
Section 166-815 – Service provided during part only of reporting period	Section 166-715 – Service provided during part only of reporting period
Subdivision L – Registered nurses	Subdivision M – Registered nurses
Section 166-850 – Application of this Subdivision	Section 166-800 – Application of this Subdivision
Section 166-855 – Reporting requirements relating to registered nurses	Section 166-805 – Reporting requirements relating to registered nurses
Subdivision M – Status of service delivery branches	Subdivision N – Status of service delivery branches
Subdivision N – Pricing information	Subdivision P – Pricing information

Aged Care Rules 2025	Exposure Draft (31 July 2025)
Section 166-1000 – Application of this Subdivision	Section 166-1500 – Application of this Subdivision
Section 166-1005 – Pricing information	Section 166-1505 – Pricing information
Section 176-15 – Care minutes that must be delivered	Section 176-15 – Amounts of direct care that must be provided
Section 176-20 – Average numbers of care minutes	Section 176-20 – Average amounts of direct care
Section 176-35 – Care minutes that must be delivered—NATSIFACP providers	Section 176-35 – Amounts of direct care that must be provided—NATSIFACP providers
Chapter 7 – Funding of aged care services–	-Commonwealth contributions
Section 211-25 – Day and amount for credit to account for classification type short term—credit due to change in classification coming into effect	Not in ED
Section 239-30 – Care minutes supplement—applicability	Not in ED
Section 239-35 – Care minutes supplement—amount	Not in ED
Chapter 8 – Funding of aged care services–	-individual fees and contributions
Subdivision A – Classes of individuals to which Division 2 of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the Act does not apply	Subdivision AA – Classes of individuals to which Division 2 of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the Act does not apply
Removed – to be included in transitional rules	Subdivision A – Contributions for delivery of funded aged care services—ongoing residential care
Removed – now exists in new section 280-10	Section 278-5 – Classes of individuals to which hotelling contribution does not apply
Removed – now exists in new section 280-10	Section 279-20 – Classes of individuals to which non-clinical care contribution does not apply
Section 280-10 – Hotelling contribution and non-clinical care contribution taken to be zero in some circumstances—matters to which System Governor must have regard	Not in ED

Aged Care Rules 2025	Exposure Draft (31 July 2025)	
Removed – to be included in transitional rules	Section 283-10 – Resident respite fee— amounts for working out maximum	
Section 284-2 – Kinds of higher everyday living agreement	Not in ED	
Subdivision A – Prescribed amounts	Title not in ED	
Section 285A-3 – Purposes of this Subdivision	Section 285-3 – Purposes of this Division	
Removed – to be included in transitional rules	Section 285A-23 – Extra service fees	
Removed – to be included in transitional rules	Section 285A-24 – Additional service fees	
Subdivision B – Other matters	Not in ED	
Section 286-17 – Refund of amounts paid in advance if individual dies or stops accessing services	Section 285-17 – Refund of amounts paid in advance if individual dies or stops accessing services	
Chapter 9 – Funding of aged care services—accommodation payments and accommodation contributions etc.		
Section 308-11 – Amounts that must be deducted from refundable deposit balances—retention amounts—circumstances in which a retention amount may be refunded	Not in ED	
Chapter 10 – Funding of aged care services	-means testing	
Removed – duplicative of the arrangements in subsection 318A(5) of the Act.	Section 318A-15 – New individual contribution rate determination following revocation of incorrect determination to take effect on specified day in specified circumstances	
Chapter 11 – Governance of the aged care system		
Part 2 – System Governor	Part 1A – System Governor	
Part 3 – Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission	Part 2 – Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission	
Division 1 – Other functions of the Commissioner	Division 1A – Other functions of the Commissioner	

Aged Care Rules 2025	Exposure Draft (31 July 2025)
Division 2 – Safeguarding functions of the Commissioner	Division 1 – Safeguarding functions of the Commissioner
Division 3 – Establishment and functions of the Complaints Commissioner	Division 2 – Establishment and functions of the Complaints Commissioner
Division 4 – Complaints Commissioner—complaints and feedback	Division 3 – Complaints Commissioner—complaints and feedback
Division 5 – Reporting and planning	Division 4 – Reporting and planning
Chapter 14 - Miscellaneous	
Part 3 – Application fees and fees for services provided by the System Governor, Commissioner and Complaints Commissioner	Not in ED