

Aged Care Act 2024 and the New Regulatory Model

Programme syllabus

DOCUMENT CONTROL

- Programme: Aged Care Act 2024 and the New Regulatory Model (OBA-ACA-2026)
- Audience: Programme documentation - facilitators, managers and the provider's education lead
- Version 1.0 | Issued 22/09/2026 | Review due 22/03/2027
- Provider: OBA Nursing Academy

SCOPE, CURRENCY AND THE LIMIT OF THIS PROGRAMME

- This programme is professional development. It explains the Aged Care Act 2024 and the Aged Care Rules 2025 as they stood at the date of issue, with the register identifier and compilation number of each; it does not replace them, and IT IS NOT LEGAL ADVICE. It cannot tell you whether your service complies, whether a specific incident is a reportable incident or which priority it is, what the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission would decide, or what a court or tribunal would do. Civil penalties are stated in PENALTY UNITS exactly as the Act states them and are never converted to dollars, because the value of a penalty unit is set elsewhere and is indexed. Your employer's policies and procedures govern your practice, and where this programme and your service's documented process differ, follow your service's process and ask why they differ.
- CONTENT VERIFIED 22/09/2026 DIRECTLY FROM THE FEDERAL REGISTER OF LEGISLATION, NOT FROM SECONDARY SOURCES. Aged Care Act 2024 (No. 104, 2024), register ID C2024A00104, COMPILATION No. 2, compilation date 1 JULY 2026, including amendments made by Act No. 45 of 2025; authorised version C2026C00301 registered 16/07/2026. Aged Care Rules 2025, register ID F2025L01173, made under section 602(1) of the Act, COMPILATION No. 10, compilation date 1 AUGUST 2026; authorised version F2026C00802 registered 13/08/2026, AND THE REGISTER FLAGS THE RULES AS HAVING UNINCORPORATED AMENDMENTS. The Act commenced 1 NOVEMBER 2025. NOTE THE TWO SPEEDS: the Act has been compiled twice and the Rules ten times in the same period, so the part of this programme most likely to go out of date is the part that carries the actual obligations. Check the compilation number before you rely on anything here, and note that this programme's review is set at SIX MONTHS rather than twelve for that reason.

WHY THIS DOCUMENT IS REVIEWED EVERY SIX MONTHS

- At the date this programme was issued the ACT was on COMPILATION 2, compiled 1 July 2026, including amendments made by one amending Act. The RULES were on COMPILATION 10, compiled 1 August 2026 - and the Federal Register flagged them as HAVING UNINCORPORATED AMENDMENTS, which means further amendments had been made and were not yet reflected in the compiled text. Ten compilations in nine months. Every one of those compilations could move something in Module 04, 05, 07 or 09, and none of them would move anything in Module 01 or 02.
- Before you rely on any section number in this document, open the instrument on the Federal Register of Legislation and check the compilation number on its cover page against the one printed

here.

What this programme is

This programme is professional development. It explains the Aged Care Act 2024 and the Aged Care Rules 2025 as they stood at the date of issue, with the register identifier and compilation number of each; it does not replace them, and IT IS NOT LEGAL ADVICE. It cannot tell you whether your service complies, whether a specific incident is a reportable incident or which priority it is, what the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission would decide, or what a court or tribunal would do. Civil penalties are stated in PENALTY UNITS exactly as the Act states them and are never converted to dollars, because the value of a penalty unit is set elsewhere and is indexed. Your employer's policies and procedures govern your practice, and where this programme and your service's documented process differ, follow your service's process and ask why they differ.

The Aged Care Act 2024 commenced on 1 November 2025. Almost none of the law a nurse working in aged care must actually obey is in it. The Quality Standards, the Code of Conduct, the provider registration categories, the definitions of the five restrictive practices and the reportable incident notification periods are all in the Aged Care Rules 2025. This programme teaches the model - Act, Rules, guidance - and then teaches the obligations in the instrument that carries them, with a citation for each one.

WHICH INSTRUMENT, WHICH SECTION

The habit this programme is really trying to install is a citation habit, and it is three words long: WHICH INSTRUMENT, WHICH SECTION. 'The Rules, section 165A-25' beats 'the Act' every time, and 'Rules s15-10(5)' beats 'Action 1.2.2' when you are writing evidence for an assessor who is applying the instrument. And give the REGISTER ID - C2024A00104 for the Act, F2025L01173 for the Rules - because a register ID plus a compilation number is the only citation that survives the next amendment.

Programme parameters

Item	Detail
Code	OBA-ACA-2026
Title	Aged Care Act 2024 and the New Regulatory Model
Version / issued / review due	1.0 22/09/2026 22/03/2027
Modules	11
CPD hours	9.0
Summative assessment	60 items, 80% pass mark, 2 attempts
Case study assessment	5 unfolding case studies, 25 decision steps
Delivery	Self-paced online, with an optional facilitated workshop
Audience	Registered and enrolled nurses, clinical and care managers, quality and compliance staff, and responsible persons in aged care

How the CPD hours were measured

The hours are measured, not asserted. Each module's figure is the sum of its measured segment times; the programme figure adds the programme-level reading and the assessment, and is then rounded to the nearest half hour.

Component	Minutes
Module content (11 modules)	367
Programme-level reading	98
Summative assessment and case studies	90
Total	555
Stated CPD hours	9.0

THE ROUNDING, AND WHY IT WENT DOWN

- The measured total is 555 minutes, which is 9.25 hours - an exact tie between 9.0 and 9.5. Hours are rounded to the nearest half hour including downwards, so a tie resolved upwards would be precisely the inflation that rule exists to prevent. The tie goes down: 9.0 hours.
- If the programme grows, the hours are recalculated from the measured segments. The number is never adjusted to make a total look better.

Modules

#	Title	Time	Outcomes
Module 00	Orientation: Where the Law Actually Is	32 min	6
Module 01	The Act: Eight Chapters, and the Definitions Everything Hangs On	35 min	6
Module 02	The Statement of Rights, and the Three Subsections of Section 24	34 min	6
Module 03	The Rules: Where Your Obligations Actually Live	31 min	6
Module 04	Registration Categories, and Which Standards Apply to You	27 min	6
Module 05	The Strengthened Quality Standards: Seven, Thirty-Six, and a Numbering That Is Not Law	32 min	6
Module 06	Standard 5 and the Workforce Outcomes: Clinical Care, and Two Nobody Mentions	35 min	6
Module 07	The Aged Care Code of Conduct, and the Four Codes You Are Bound By	30 min	6
Module 08	The Provider Duty: Reasonably Practicable, Serious Failure, and Penalty Units	33 min	6
Module 09	Reportable Incidents: Eight Kinds, Two Priorities, and the Impairment Rule	38 min	6
Module 10	Restrictive Practices, Whistleblowing, and What to Check on Monday	40 min	6

Learning outcomes, by module

Module 00 - Orientation: Where the Law Actually Is

- State when the Aged Care Act 2024 commenced, and what it commenced alongside
- Explain why the Act is the frame and the Rules are the obligations
- State the compilation number of each instrument at the date of issue, and why that matters
- Name the seven documents this programme is built on
- State what this programme is not, and where a learner must go instead
- Locate the twelve local questions this programme cannot answer for you

Module 01 - The Act: Eight Chapters, and the Definitions Everything Hangs On

- Name the eight chapters of the Act and say which one a provider's obligations live in
- Identify the sections of the Act that are signposts to the Rules rather than obligations
- State the definition of 'aged care worker' and who it catches
- State the general test for a restrictive practice, and why 'effect' rather than 'intent' matters
- State the two limbs of a 'serious failure' and where they are defined
- Explain what an objects clause does, and which instruments s5 invokes

Module 02 - The Statement of Rights, and the Three Subsections of Section 24

- Name the six headings of the Statement of Rights and locate the twelve subsections
- Quote s23(1)(c) and explain what dignity of risk means as a statutory right
- State all three subsections of s24 and explain why quoting one is misleading
- Identify the five pathways through which the Statement of Rights is actually enforced
- State the three matters against which rights may have to be balanced under s24(2)
- Explain, to an older person or a family member, what the Statement of Rights gives them

Module 03 - The Rules: Where Your Obligations Actually Live

- Explain what delegated legislation is and under which section of the Act the Rules are made
- Name the fifteen chapters of the Rules in outline and locate the four that matter most
- State, for eight common obligations, whether they are in the Act or the Rules
- Explain what a compilation number is and why a citation without one is incomplete
- Explain what 'unincorporated amendments' on the register means
- Find a section of the Rules on the Federal Register in under a minute

Module 04 - Registration Categories, and Which Standards Apply to You

- Name the seven provider registration categories and say which instrument each comes from
- State which Standards apply to which categories under Rules s15-5
- Identify the one outcome that applies beyond its own Standard's categories
- Explain why 'the seven Standards apply to us' is usually wrong
- Find out which categories your own employer is registered in
- Recognise when a service is being audited against a Standard that does not apply to it

Module 05 - The Strengthened Quality Standards: Seven, Thirty-Six, and a Numbering That Is Not Law

- Name the seven strengthened Standards and give the outcome count for each
- State the one-second test for distinguishing the current Standards from the superseded set
- Explain how the Rules draft the Standards, and what the 'Action X.Y.Z' numbering actually is
- Cite an obligation from the Standards correctly
- Explain what the six lettered outcomes split along
- Find any outcome in the instrument in under a minute

Module 06 - Standard 5 and the Workforce Outcomes: Clinical Care, and Two Nobody Mentions

- Name the seven outcomes of Standard 5 and the section of the Rules that contains them
- State what Outcome 5.1 requires of the governing body and of the provider
- State the medicines requirement at Outcome 5.3 and who the instrument says must administer, monitor and review
- State what Outcome 5.4 requires clinical care to encompass
- Quote Outcome 5.6 on cognitive impairment, including the three kinds it names
- State what Outcomes 2.2a and 2.6a require in relation to aged care workers

Module 07 - The Aged Care Code of Conduct, and the Four Codes You Are Bound By

- State the eight requirements of the Aged Care Code of Conduct and where they are set out
- Explain the significance of the Code being written in the first person
- Name the three groups the Code binds, and the sections that bind them
- Explain why the Code reaches volunteers
- Name the four codes a nurse in aged care is bound by
- Identify which requirement of the Code is engaged by a given situation

Module 08 - The Provider Duty: Reasonably Practicable, Serious Failure, and Penalty Units

- State the provider duty in s179(1) and identify the phrase imported from WHS law
- List the five matters relevant to what is reasonably practicable
- Explain how the Statement of Rights operates inside the duty
- State both limbs required for a serious failure under s179(4)
- State the four penalty amounts in penalty units, and why they are never converted
- State the duty owed by certain responsible persons under s180

Module 09 - Reportable Incidents: Eight Kinds, Two Priorities, and the Impairment Rule

- Name the eight kinds of reportable incident and state the trigger
- State the Priority 1 and Priority 2 notice periods and where they come from
- Apply the four limbs of the Priority 1 test
- State the Rules definition of 'medical or psychological treatment' and why it matters
- State the impairment rule at Rules s165A-25(3) in both its limbs
- Distinguish the worker's internal notification duty from the provider's duty to the Commissioner

Module 10 - Restrictive Practices, Whistleblowing, and What to Check on Monday

- Name the five restrictive practices and the test common to all of them
- State the carve-out attached to chemical, mechanical and physical restraint
- Distinguish the Act's general test at s17(1) from the Rules' five definitions
- Name the seven classes of person a protected disclosure may be made to
- State what the protection at s548 covers, and its one limit
- Identify ten things to check in your own service, each with a citation

Where the law actually is

This table is the programme's spine. Each row is an obligation a nurse in aged care is expected to meet, and the instrument that carries it.

Obligation	Instrument and section	Note
The Aged Care Quality Standards	RULES ss15-10 to 15-40	Seven standards, thirty-six outcomes. The Act says only that 'the rules MAY prescribe standards' (s15).
The Aged Care Code of Conduct	RULES s14-5	Eight requirements, in the first person. The Act at s14 is a signpost to the Rules.
The provider registration categories	RULES s11-5 (+ the Act s11(3) (a))	Six in the Rules. Residential care is in the Act. Seven in total.
The five restrictive practices	RULES s17-5	Chemical, environmental, mechanical, physical, seclusion - each defined, each with carve-outs. The Act at s17 gives only the general test.
Priority 1 within 24 hours, Priority 2 within 30 days	RULES ss165A-25, 165A-30	No timeframe for notifying a reportable incident appears in the Act at all.
Which providers must comply with the Quality Standards	RULES s146-5 and s15-5	The Act at s146 says only 'a registered provider of a kind PRESCRIBED BY THE RULES'.
What is NOT a reportable incident	RULES ss16-10, 16-15	Including the specific carve-out for the use of restrictive practices in a HOME OR COMMUNITY setting.
Service agreements, their details and contents	RULES ss148-65, 148-70	Cross-referenced from Outcome 1.4 of Standard 1.

Assessment

Two instruments. The summative paper is 60 multiple-choice items blueprinted across the eleven modules; the case study assessment is 5 unfolding case studies with 25 decision steps, each option carrying feedback. The pass mark is 80% and there are 2 attempts.

Module	Items
Module 00	4
Module 01	6
Module 02	7
Module 03	6
Module 04	5
Module 05	7
Module 06	5
Module 07	5
Module 08	6
Module 09	5
Module 10	4
Total	60

Twenty of the keyed rationales are marked MANDATORY-CORRECT. Those are the statements the programme will not have a learner leave holding wrongly, and each of the eleven modules contributes at least one.

What this programme does not do

- It is not legal advice, and it is not a compliance sign-off.
- It does not say whether a service complies, whether a particular incident is reportable, or which priority applies to it. Those are the provider's decisions under its own incident management system.
- It does not convert penalty units into dollars.
- It does not reproduce any real incident, complaint, sanction, coronial finding or Royal Commission case study. Every scenario is constructed.
- It does not cite the Commission's 'Action X.Y.Z' numbering as the source of an obligation, because that numbering does not appear in the legislation.

SUPPORT - FOR YOU

- Nurse & Midwife Support - 1800 667 877. 24 hours, seven days. Free and confidential, for nurses, midwives and students - including if you are carrying an incident, a disclosure you have made or are considering, or an investigation.
- Lifeline - 13 11 14. 24 hours, seven days. National crisis support.
- You may stop this programme at any point and come back. Nothing is timed and there is no penalty.