

# Citation card

Which instrument, which section

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

- Programme: Aged Care Act 2024 and the New Regulatory Model (OBA-ACA-2026)
- Audience: Any aged care worker - print it, keep it
- Version 1.0 | Issued 22/09/2026 | Review due 22/03/2027
- Provider: OBA Nursing Academy

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.

## The six questions, in order

| Ask                                               | Because                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Which instrument is this in?</b>               | The Act or the Rules. If somebody says 'the Act requires', check - the Quality Standards, the Code of Conduct, the registration categories, the restrictive practice definitions and the incident timeframes are all in the RULES. The Act's sections 14, 15, 11(3)(b) and 17(2) are signposts to the rules, not obligations. |
| <b>Which section, and which compilation?</b>      | A section number without a compilation is half a citation. The Act was on Compilation 2 and the Rules on Compilation 10 at the date of issue, and the Rules moved ten times in nine months.                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Does it apply to MY service?</b>               | Rules s15-5 makes the Standards category-dependent. Standards 6 and 7 are residential care only. Standard 5 is nursing and transition care, and residential care - except Outcome 5.1, which reaches into home care where care management or restorative care management is delivered.                                        |
| <b>Does it apply to ME?</b>                       | Act s11(4) makes every person engaged to deliver funded aged care services an aged care worker, including volunteers - so the Code of Conduct reaches everybody. The reportable incident NOTICE to the Commissioner is the provider's obligation; the internal notification is the worker's.                                  |
| <b>Is this guidance, or is it the obligation?</b> | The 'Action 1.4.1' numbering, the Commission's case studies and the fact sheets are guidance. The obligation is the subsection of the Rules. Both                                                                                                                                                                             |

|                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                   | matter; only one is the law.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Am I about to state something the instrument does not say?</b> | No dollar figures for penalty units. No claim that the Statement of Rights is enforceable in a court or tribunal, and no claim that it is unenforceable. No timeframe that is not in ss165A-25 or 165A-30. And no Standard applied to a service it does not cover. |

## Where the law is

| Obligation                                             | Instrument and section            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| The Aged Care Quality Standards                        | RULES ss15-10 to 15-40            |
| The Aged Care Code of Conduct                          | RULES s14-5                       |
| The provider registration categories                   | RULES s11-5 (+ the Act s11(3)(a)) |
| The five restrictive practices                         | RULES s17-5                       |
| Priority 1 within 24 hours, Priority 2 within 30 days  | RULES ss165A-25, 165A-30          |
| Which providers must comply with the Quality Standards | RULES s146-5 and s15-5            |
| What is NOT a reportable incident                      | RULES ss16-10, 16-15              |
| Service agreements, their details and contents         | RULES ss148-65, 148-70            |

## The two register identifiers

| Instrument           | Register ID | Compilation at the date of issue                                                   |
|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aged Care Act 2024   | C2024A00104 | No. 2, compiled 1 July 2026                                                        |
| Aged Care Rules 2025 | F2025L01173 | No. 10, compiled 1 August 2026<br>- flagged as having<br>unincorporated amendments |

### THE COMPILATION NUMBER IS ON THE COVER PAGE AND IN EVERY PAGE FOOTER

A register ID identifies the instrument and never changes. A compilation number identifies the version of the text. A citation with both survives the next amendment; a citation with neither cannot be checked by the person you gave it to.

## Write your own, and date it

Fill this in for an obligation you rely on at work. Then check it again in six months, because the Rules moved ten compilations in about nine months.

*The obligation, in your own words*

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*Instrument (Act or Rules)*

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*Section*

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*Register ID and compilation number*

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*Date I checked the register*

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*Where our policy says it, and whether the policy agrees*

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