Australian Community Industry Alliance (ACIA)
ACIS 5.0 Equivalence Policy

Commencement date

The policy commences from the date of publication. This policy may be updated from time to time. Any changes take effect from the date of publication.

Equivalence policy

This document should be read in conjunction with the Australian Community Industry Certification Scheme 5.0 (ACICS 5.0) and the Australian Community Industry Standards 5.0 (ACIS 5.0).

ACICS 5.0 provides for equivalence for auditing processes relating to certain requirements under ACIS 5.0. Equivalence is based on:

- NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators, November 2021, version 4.

- Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care, Strengthened Aged Care Standards, Final draft, November 2023.

The table on the next pages shows the equivalence ratings that auditors shall take into account when defining the scope of an ACIS audit, subject to the requirements of ACICS 5.0.

This is ACIA's assessment regarding what will be accepted as equivalence for ACIS auditing. It does not mean that the NDIS or Aged Care Commissions have accepted ACIS as being equivalent to their Standards for audit or other purposes.

An auditor needs to consider a range of factors when considering whether equivalence can be applied. Certification Bodies (and their auditors) have the right to determine the appropriateness of applying equivalence in individual audits.

The following is an extract from the ACICS 5.0 document.

7.4.4 Equivalence

7.4.4.1 ACIA may nominate that a specific ACIS standard or requirement is considered by ACIA to be the equivalent of a standard or requirement in another certification scheme. ACIA's equivalence policy shall be published and may be amended from time to time.

7.4.4.2 If ACIA's equivalence policy indicates 'full equivalence' or 'partial equivalence', and an audit under the other certification scheme is conducted at the same time as the ACIS audit or within the past 6 months, and the Certification Body considers the Service Provider has met equivalent standards, and the Certification Body considers it appropriate to do so:

a) The standard shall be listed as 'likely to be met' with the rating attained under the other certification scheme, with limited evidence required to confirm conformity.

b) Reduction in Audit Duration shall be applied (refer to clause 7.4.7 (Audit Time and Duration) for further information) by the Certification Body.

c) Results from Service Provider documentation and process reviews and staff interviews undertaken under the other certification scheme shall be relied on by the Certification Body, subject to clauses 7.4.4.2(d) and 7.4.4.2(e) (prioritising ACIS Relevant Clients).

d) The Certification Body shall prioritise Client file reviews and Client interviews with ACIS Relevant Clients before relying on file reviews and interviews under other certification schemes.

e) In addition to clause 7.4.4.2 (d) (prioritising ACIS Relevant Clients), if the Service Provider is part of a provider panel with a Scheme Funder that requires ACIS Certification, the Certification Body shall prioritise Client file reviews and Client interviews with Clients of the Scheme Funder before relying on file reviews and interviews with other ACIS Relevant Clients or other certification schemes.

7.4.4.3 If ACIA's equivalence policy indicates 'no equivalence', no presumption of conformity shall be made and the audit shall proceed as required under this standard.

7.4.4.4 Where the Service Provider is part of a provider panel with a Scheme Funder that requires ACIS Certification (e.g. icare, MAIB), Clients of the Scheme Funder shall be prioritised for inclusion in the sample.

Equivalence table

ACIS 5.0	NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators, November 2021, version 4	Strengthened Aged Care Standards, Final draft, November 2023
Rights and Responsibilities		
1.1 Client Rights and Responsibilities	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Person Centred Supports	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 1.1 Person-Centred Care Aged Care – 1.2 Dignity, Respect and Privacy
1.2 Person-Centred Support	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Person Centred Supports	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 1.1 Person-Centred Care
1.3 Cultural Safety, Inclusion and Diversity	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Individual Values and Beliefs	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 1.1 Person Centred Care
1.4 Dignity and Privacy	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Privacy and Dignity	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 1.2 Dignity, Respect and Privacy
1.5 Independence and Choice	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Independence and Choice	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 1.3 Choice, Independence and Quality of Life Aged Care – 5.1.5 Clinical Governance
1.6 Discrimination, Abuse and Neglect	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Violence, Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 1.2 Dignity, Respect and Privacy
1.7 Community Engagement	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Person-Centred Supports	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 7.1 Daily Living
Corporate Governance		
2.1 Operational Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Governance and Operational Management	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care - 2.1 Partnering with Older People Aged Care – 2.2 Quality and Safety Culture
2.2 Risk Management	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Risk Management	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care 2.4 Risk Management
2.3 Quality Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Quality Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 2.2 Quality and Safety Culture Aged Care – 2.3 Accountability and Quality System

ACIS 5.0	NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators, November 2021, version 4	Strengthened Aged Care Standards, Final draft, November 2023
2.4 Information Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Information Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 2.7 Information Management
2.5 Complaints and Feedback Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Feedback and Complaints Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 2.6 Feedback and Complaints Management
2.6 Incident Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Incident Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 2.3 Accountability and Quality System Aged Care – 2.5 Incident Management
2.7 Workforce Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Human Resource Management and Continuity of Supports	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 2.2 Quality and Safety Culture Aged Care – 2.8 Workforce Planning Aged Care – 2.9 Human Resource Management
2.8 Benchmarking and Monitoring	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within NDIS standards	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 2.5 Incident Management Aged Care – 2.6 Feedback and Complaints Management
2.9 Emergency and Disaster Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Emergency and Disaster Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 2.10 Emergency and Disaster Management
Clinical Governance		
3.1 Clinical Leadership and Culture	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within NDIS standards	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 5.1 Clinical Governance
3.2 Clinical Partnership and Communication	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within NDIS standards	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 2.1 Partnering with Older People Aged Care – 3.3 Communicating for Safety and Quality
3.3 Clinical Practice	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within NDIS standards	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 3.2 Delivery of Care and Services Aged Care – 3.3 Communicating for Safety and Quality

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ACIS 5.0	NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators, November 2021, version 4	Strengthened Aged Care Standards, Final draft, November 2023
Service Delivery		
4.1 Service Support	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Access to Supports	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 1.4 Transparency and Agreements
4.2 Service Agreements with Clients	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Service Agreements with Participants	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 1.4 Transparency and Agreements
4.3 Assessment and Planning	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Support Planning	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 3.1 Assessment and Planning Aged Care – 3.3 Communicating for Safety and Quality
4.4 Delivery and Monitoring	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Responsive Support Provision	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 3.2 Delivery of Care and Services
4.5 Trauma Informed Care and Support	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within NDIS standards	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within Aged Care standards
4.6 Mealtime Management	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Mealtime Management	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 6 Food and Nutrition
4.7 Support to Engage in Work and the Community	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Person-Centred Supports	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 7.1 Daily Living
4.8 Transfers, Transitions or Exit	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Transitions to or from a Provider	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 3.4.3 Coordination of Care and Services
Service Environment		
5.1 Safe Environment and Equipment	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Safe environment	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 4.1a Environment and Equipment at Home Aged Care – 4.1b Environment and Equipment in a Service Environment
5.2 Client Money and Property	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Participant Money and Property	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within Aged Care standards
5.3 Infection Prevention and Control	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Safe Environment NDIS - Management of Waste	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 4.2 Infection Prevention and Control

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ACIS 5.0	NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators, November 2021, version 4	Strengthened Aged Care Standards, Final draft, November 2023
Complex Physical Supports		
6.0 Common Quality Indicators that Apply Across Standard 6	Equivalence for 6.0 shall be treated in accordance with the Equivalence assessment made for the relevant individual Standard (6.1 to 6.16)	
6.1 Medication Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Management of Medication	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 5.3 Safe and Quality Use of Medicines
6.2 Wound Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Complex Wound Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 5.4 Comprehensive Care Aged Care – 5.5 Clinical Safety
6.3 Catheter Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Urinary Catheter Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 5.2 Preventing and Controlling Infections in Clinical Care Aged Care – 5.4 Comprehensive Care Aged Care – 5.5 Clinical Safety
6.4 Complex Bowel Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Complex Bowel Care	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 5.4 Comprehensive Care Aged Care – 5.5 Clinical Safety
6.5 Enteral Feeding and Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Enteral Feeding and Management	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 5.4 Comprehensive Care Aged Care – 5.5 Clinical Safety
6.6 Advanced Airway and Suctioning Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Tracheostomy Management	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 5.4 Comprehensive Care
6.7 Ventilator Care and Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Ventilator Management	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 5.4 Comprehensive Care
6.8 Subcutaneous (SC) Injections	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Subcutaneous Injections	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 5.4 Comprehensive Care
6.9 Traumatic Brain Injury Management	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within NDIS standards	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within Aged Care standards
6.10 Epilepsy	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 (general)	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 5.4 Comprehensive Care
6.11 Spinal Cord Injury Management	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within NDIS standards	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within Aged Care standards
6.12 Palliative Care and Pain Management	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within NDIS standards	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 5.7 Care at End of Life
6.13 Diabetic Management	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within NDIS standards	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within Aged Care standards

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6.14 Bariatric Management	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within NDIS standards	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within Aged Care standards
6.15 Oncology Management	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within NDIS standards	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within Aged Care standards
6.16 Altered Nutrition and Dysphagia	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Severe Dysphagia Management	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 6 Food and Nutrition
Complex Behaviour Support		
7.1 Positive Behaviour Support	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Supporting the Implementation of the Behaviour Support Plan	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within Aged Care standards
7.2 Restrictive Practices	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 NDIS - Restrictive Practices	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 3.2.5 Delivery of Care and Services
7.3 Complex Cognitive Impairment Support	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within NDIS standards	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 5.6 Cognitive Impairment
Mental Health Support		
8.1 Mental Health Support	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within NDIS standards	Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 5.5.6 Mental Health
Assistive Technology		
9.1 Assistive Technology	Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0 within NDIS standards	Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0 Aged Care – 3.2.3 Delivery of Care and Services Aged Care – 4.1a Environment and Equipment at Home Aged Care – 4.1b Environment and Equipment in a Service Environment

Legend

Fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0	Quality Outcomes coloured green are considered fully equivalent to ACIS 5.0
Partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0	Quality Outcomes coloured amber are considered partially equivalent to ACIS 5.0
Not equivalent to ACIS 5.0	Quality Outcomes coloured red are considered not equivalent to ACIS 5.0