



**Australian Government**  

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**Department of Health and Ageing**

## **Changes to the ACFI High and Low Care Definition**

From 1 January 2010, the definition for High Care under the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) will be changed to make it much more like it was before the ACFI was introduced.

### **Why change the current definition?**

An unintended consequence of the introduction of the ACFI is that some residents that would have previously been appraised by providers as Low Care are now being appraised as High Care.

While subsidies have increased for many of these residents, in some cases it has resulted in aged care homes having to provide specified care and services that they are not equipped to provide and that their residents do not need. This anomaly has also increased the level of misalignment between assessments undertaken by Aged Care Assessment Teams and ACFI appraisals undertaken by aged care providers.

In the May 2009 Budget, the Government announced action to address this anomaly in the new arrangements by modifying the definition of High Care. Extensive consultations have been held with consumers, providers and health professionals through the ACFI Technical Reference Group, the ACFI Industry Reference Group and the Ageing Consultative Committee. The proposed approach has been endorsed by each of these committees.

### **What will the new definition look like?**

Under the *current definition*, to be appraised under the ACFI as a High Care, the resident must have a score of:

- Medium or high in the ADL Domain; or
- High in the Behaviour Domain; or
- Medium or High in CHC Domain.

Under the *new definition* that has been developed, to be appraised as High Care, the resident must have:

- a score of High in the ADL Domain; or
- a score of High in the CHC Domain; or
- a score of High in the Behaviour Domain together with a score above Nil in at least one of the ADL or CHC domains; or
- a score of Medium or High in at least two of the three domains.

**What effect will this change have on funding?**

There will be no effect on the level of subsidies provided for different ACFI categories. The only thing that is changing is the categorisation of residents into Low and High, which will be much the same as it was before the ACFI was introduced. As a result, some ACFI categories will shift from High to Low Care, which will reduce the proportion of residents funded at the Interim Low rate.

**How will this change effect residents currently in care?**

Grand-parenting arrangements will be put in place to ensure that existing residents do not face an increase in their care costs, while at the same time ensuring aged care homes are not required to provide unnecessary services such as ongoing nursing care to residents who do not have a need for this care.

**Further Information**

- Website – <http://www.health.gov.au/acfi>
- Aged Care Information Line– 1800 500 853
- ACFI dedicated email address – [acfi@health.gov.au](mailto:acfi@health.gov.au)