APPENDIX 1 – Expected Levels of ACSF Core Skills and ADCF Proficiency per Qualification Type (Typical Range)

AQF Level	Qualification Type	ACSF Core Skills Level	ADCF Digital Capability Proficiency Level
Level 1	Certificate I	ACSF Level 1-2	A1 - Foundation
Level 2	Certificate II	ACSF Level 2-3	A2 - Foundation
Level 3	Certificate III	ACSF Level 3-4	B3 - Intermediate
Level 4	Certificate IV	ACSF Level 3-5	B4 - Intermediate
Level 5	Diploma	ACSF Level 4-5	C5 - Advanced
Level 6	Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree	ACSF Level 4-5	C6 - Advanced

Note: *The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) provides a structured 10-level framework for qualifications across school, Vocational Education and Training (VET), and Higher Education sectors in Australia. However, the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) performance levels do not directly align with AQF levels due to differences in how qualifications and units of competency are designed.*

Core skill requirements vary depending on industry needs and specific occupational or academic contexts. As a result, two qualifications at the same AQF level may have different core skill expectations based on their intended application.

The Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) defines **5 levels** of performance in **5 core skills**:

Learning	Learning Skills refer to the ability to acquire, process, and apply knowledge and understanding in various contexts. These skills enable individuals to reflect on their learning, engage in independent thinking, and apply problem-solving strategies.
Reading	Reading skills refer to the ability to understand, interpret, and analyse written texts. They include recognising words, comprehending meaning, identifying key ideas, making inferences, and evaluating information.
Writing	Writing skills refer to the ability to organise thoughts and express ideas through structured and coherent text for effective communication while using proper grammar and vocabulary.
Oral Communication	Oral communication skills refer to the ability to speak and listen effectively to convey information, express ideas, and engage in discussions across various settings.
Numeracy	Numeracy skills refer to the ability to understand and work with numbers, including basic calculations, interpreting data, measuring, and problem-solving in everyday and workplace contexts.

Level 1: Basic skills, and highly structured support required.

Level 2: Can follow familiar routines with some independence.

Level 3: Can apply skills independently in known contexts.

Level 4: Can adapt skills to new and complex situations.

Level 5: High-level reasoning and problem-solving across multiple domains.

The [Australian Digital Capability Framework](#) defines **4 proficiency levels** (A–D) and **8 subset levels** (1–8). Each level is based on task complexity and level of autonomy.

Digital	Digital skills involve the ability to use technology effectively for communication, information access, problem-solving, and online collaboration. They include navigating digital devices, using software and applications, managing data, and ensuring online safety.

A – Foundation (Basic Digital Skills)	**A1**: Perform basic tasks with guidance
	A2: Perform basic tasks independently with some guidance
B – Intermediate (Routine Digital Tasks & Simple Problem Solving)	**B3**: Solve simple digital problems autonomously
	B4: Solve intermediate digital problems autonomously
C – Advanced (Complex Digital Tasks & Leadership)	**C5**: Solve advanced digital problems and guide others
	C6: Solve complex digital problems and guide others
D – Specialised (Expert-Level Digital Proficiency & Innovation)	**D7**: Solve highly complex digital problems and contribute knowledge
	D8: Perform highly specialised digital tasks and lead innovation