



## Awarding Credit for Equivalent Units of Competency

On 8 September 2022, the Training Accreditation Council (TAC or the Council) endorsed a revised position on the application of credit for equivalent units of competency.

In finalising its position, the Council was mindful of the nature of training product revisions, the need to ensure confidence in the training system, and risks to workplace safety. In December 2022, to ensure its position was optimum, the Council decided to undertake further research and consultation with TAC RTOs and stakeholders to further examine the issues related to credit to help inform Council's ongoing consideration of the issues.

On 11 May 2023, the Council considered the Report on the Consultation with RTOs and Stakeholders, and the outcomes of the Review of a sample of equivalent units of competency superseded twice or more.

The Council wishes to confirm its advice for RTOs on granting credit to learners for superseded 'equivalent'<sup>[1]</sup> units of competency. The advice includes:

- RTOs can award credit using the 'equivalent' determination where the unit and/or modules already attained by the learner *immediately* precedes the unit and/or module for which credit transfer will be awarded.
- Where an award of credit is sought for equivalent units and/or modules that have been superseded twice or more (e.g. there is a unit and/or modules interceding):
  - the RTO must conduct a mapping process to confirm no gaps exist in the content and learning outcomes<sup>[2]</sup> between the unit and/or module already attained by the learner and the unit and/or module for which the learner seeks an award of credit; and
  - where a mapping process identifies gaps in the content and learning outcomes, no award of credit can be provided.

This advice is in line with the requirements of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) which indicates that:

- *RTOs are responsible for ensuring the quality of the learning outcomes and that the graduate has satisfactorily completed any requirements for the awarding of the qualification.*<sup>[3]</sup>

This advice is also in line with the requirements of the AQF Pathways Policy<sup>[4]</sup> which indicates that:

- *the RTO will recognise learning regardless of how, when and where it was acquired, **provided that the learning is relevant and current** and has a relationship to the learning outcomes of the qualification; and*
- *that giving credit “should not impinge upon...the integrity of qualification outcomes”.*

[1] Equivalence as published on the national register on VET, training.gov.au [2] Content includes a unit of competency's Elements, Performance Criteria and Assessment Requirements [3] Australian Qualifications Framework – Second Edition January 2013 (page28) [4] Australian Qualifications Framework – Second Edition January 2013 (page78)

The [TAC Fact Sheet: Training Product Equivalence](#) provides an example of a mapping process.

The [TAC Fact Sheet: Awarding Credit](#) provides further guidance to RTOs on awarding credit.

To further support the sector, the Council will develop additional education and guidance materials.

If you have any questions or would like further advice, please contact the TAC Secretariat on (08) 9224 6510.

---

Full versions of the consultation report and the review are available on the Council's website and can be accessed [here](#).

A summary of the research and consultation outcomes are provided in the following infographic.

---

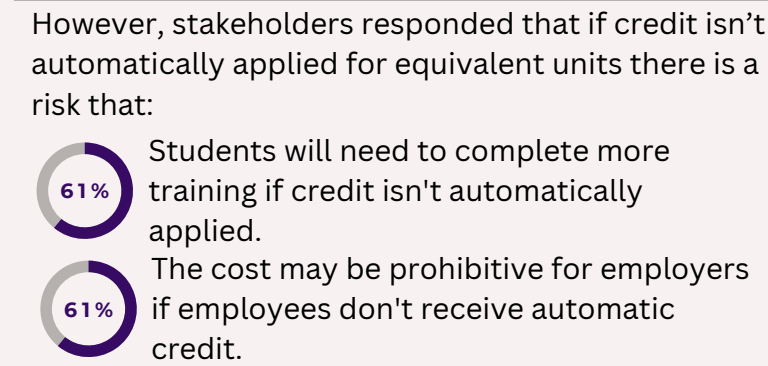
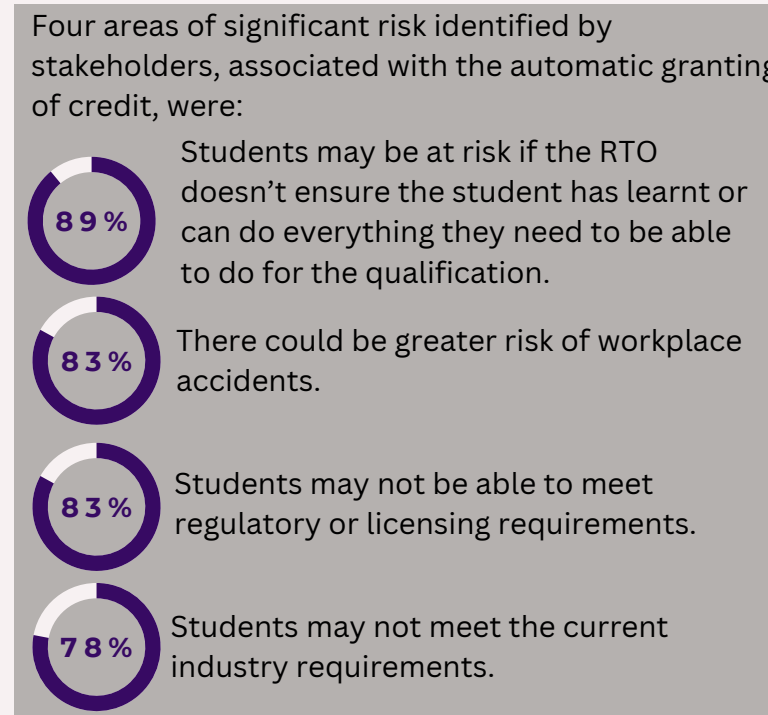
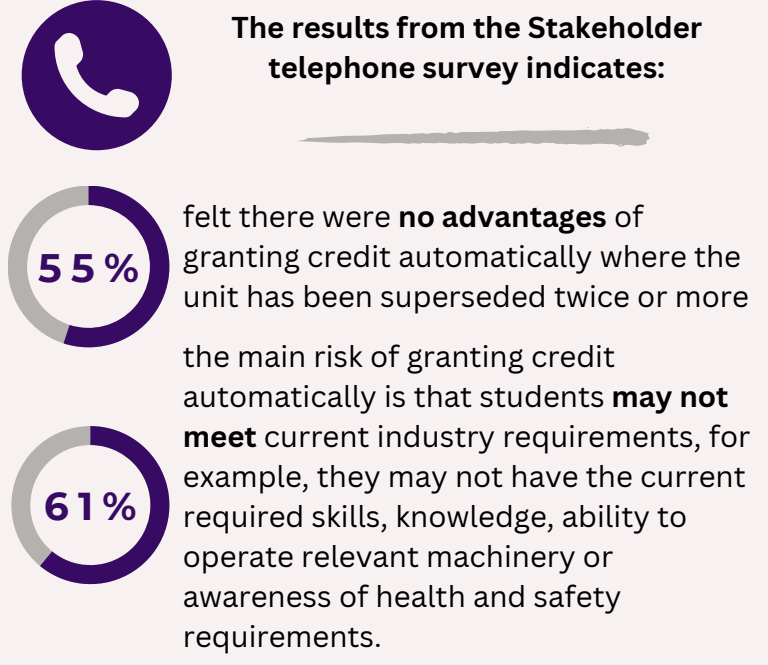
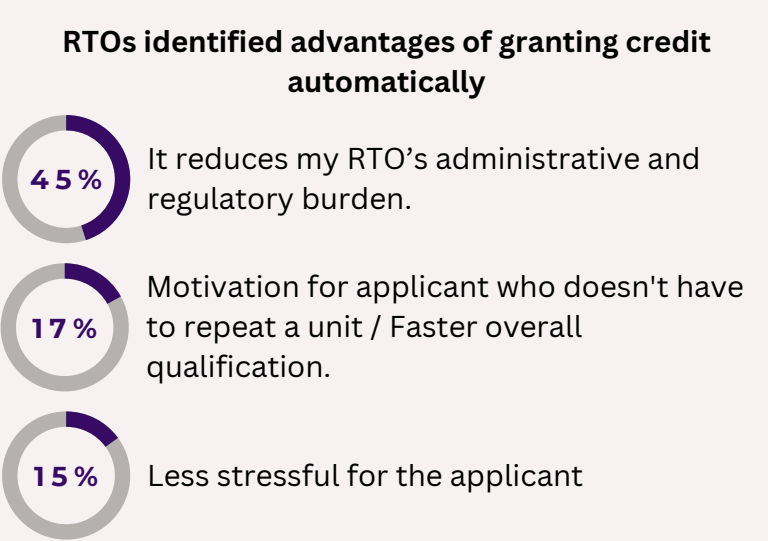
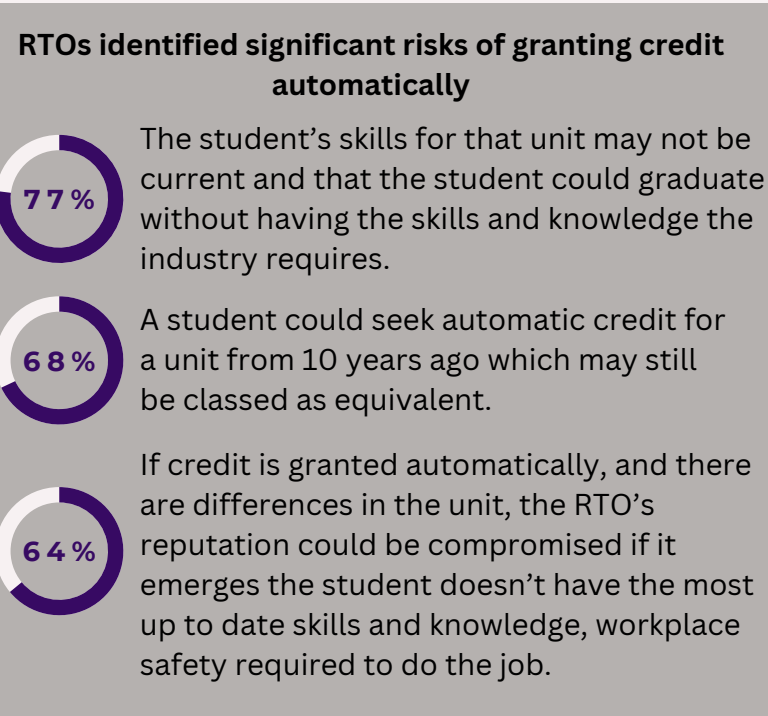
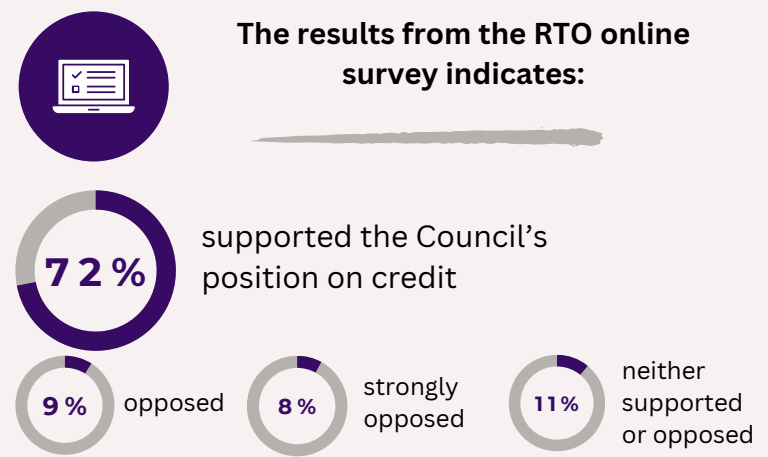
## Infographics


[Click here](#) to download infographics

# Consultation OUTCOMES



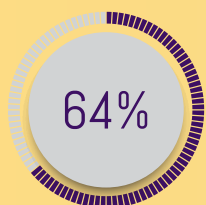
- An online survey was sent to 172 TAC registered RTOs, and
  - 25 stakeholders were invited to take part in a telephone survey
- **53** responses were received from 52 RTOs
- **18** responses were received from stakeholders



- 9% of RTOs that responded delivered the TAE and identified that there was a significant impact on RTOs who deliver these qualifications. While this view is acknowledge, it is noted that:
- 
- five of the six core units of the the TAE40122 - *Certificate IV in Training and Assessment* are not equivalent and one core unit is new;
  - 14 of the 20 listed electives are not equivalent; and
  - the Standards for RTOs do not require trainers and assessors to upgrade to the latest version of the TAE40122 - *Certificate IV in Training and Assessment*.

# Review of a sample of **equivalent** units of competency **superseded twice or more**

For the majority of units reviewed  
(29 out of 45 units sampled), there were significant gaps between the current unit and the unit that has been superseded twice or more.



of units revealed there were significant gaps along the equivalence chain



revealed no gaps

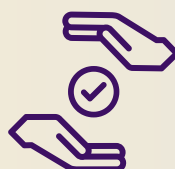


Changes included additional performance criteria and additional knowledge evidence items relating to safe work practice.



The evidence from the sample reviewed indicates it would be unsafe to presume that equivalent units superseded twice or more could automatically be used for credit.

The mapping process required by TAC may reveal:



No changes between equivalent units superseded twice or more, and with that knowledge the RTO could safely grant credit; or



It may also reveal that there have been substantial changes in which case the RTO may offer RPL or an accelerated learning pathway to upgrade the competency to current status.

The Auditor's view indicates that requiring RTOs to map equivalent units superseded twice or more against the current unit is justified before credit can be considered.

