

# Learning Difficulties Australia

Learning Difficulties Australia is an association of teachers and other professionals dedicated to assisting students with learning difficulties through effective teaching practices based on scientific research.



[www.ldaustralia.org](http://www.ldaustralia.org)



[enquiries@ldaustralia.org](mailto:enquiries@ldaustralia.org)



[@LearningDifficultiesAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/LearningDifficultiesAustralia)



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Special Educator  
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LETRS Certified

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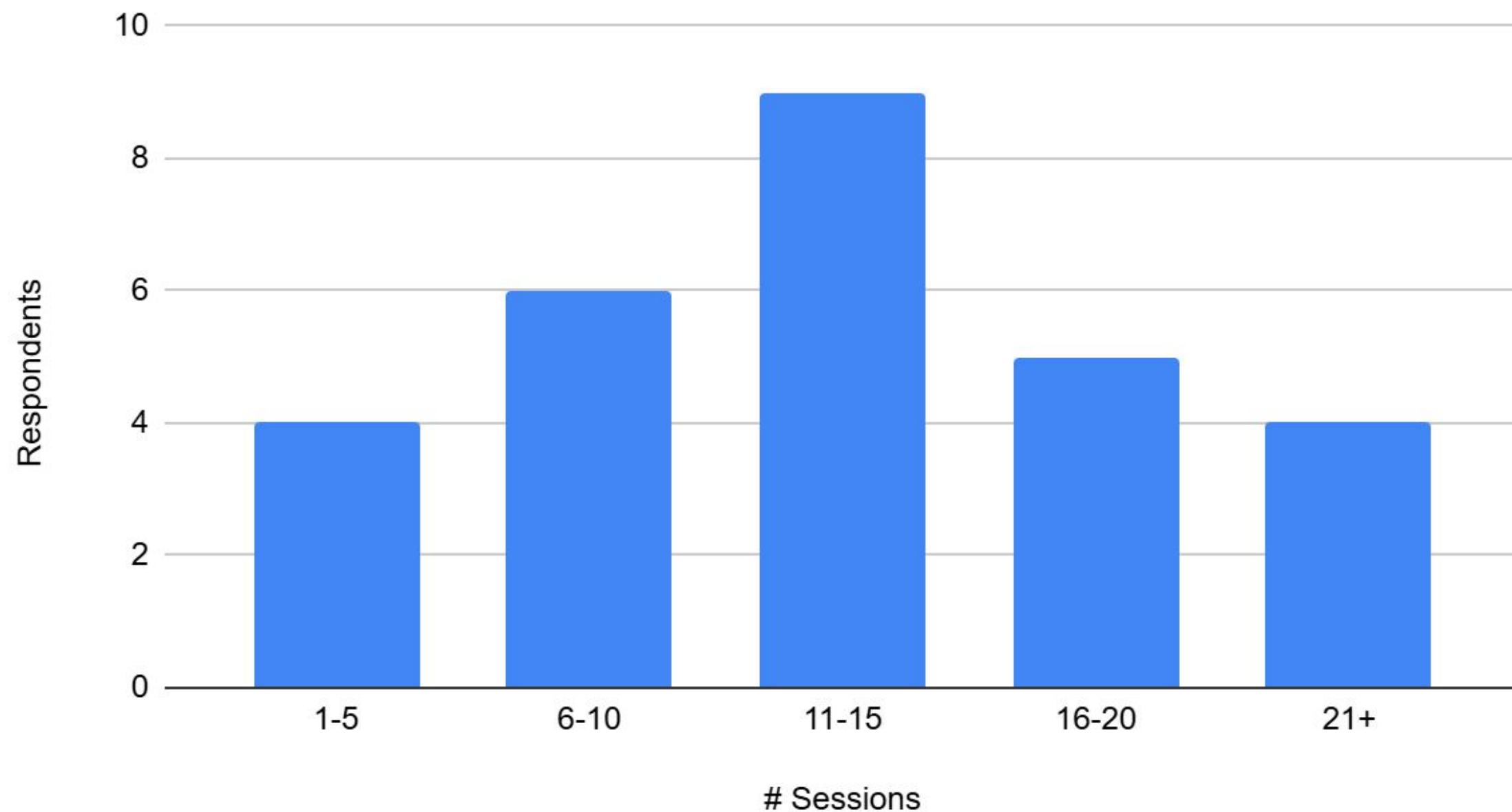


# YOUR LDA CONSULTANCY PRACTICE



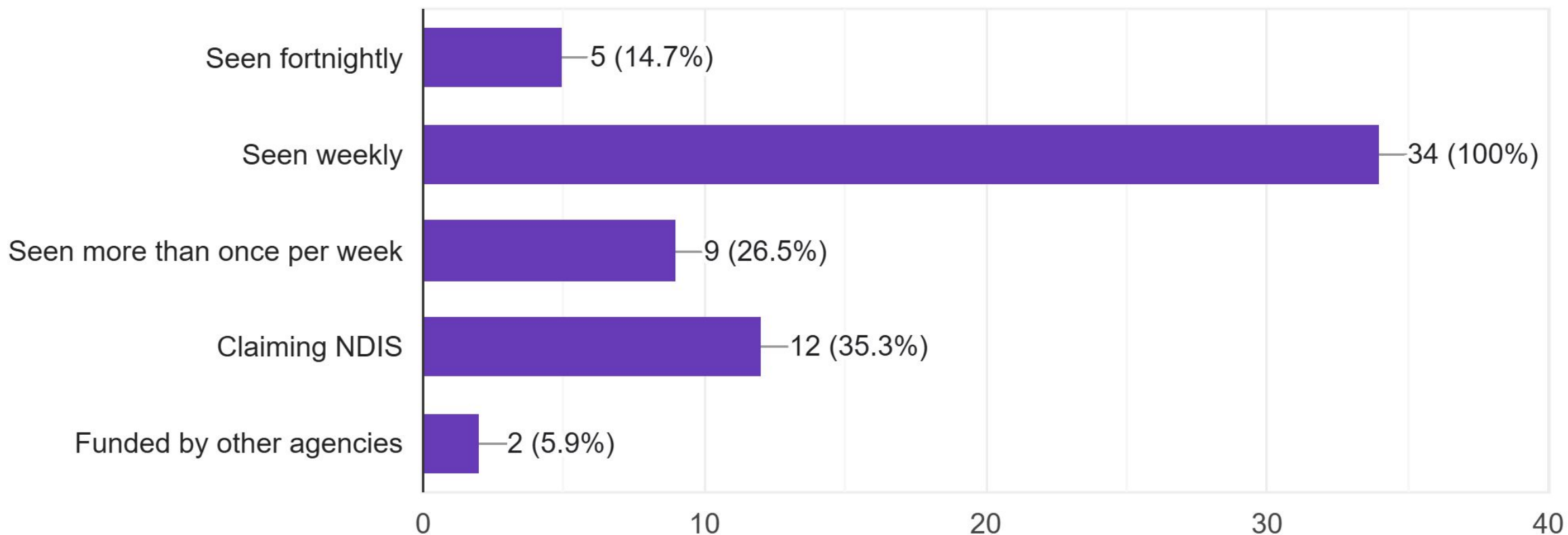
CLIENTELE

## Approx. Number of Sessions Provided Weekly



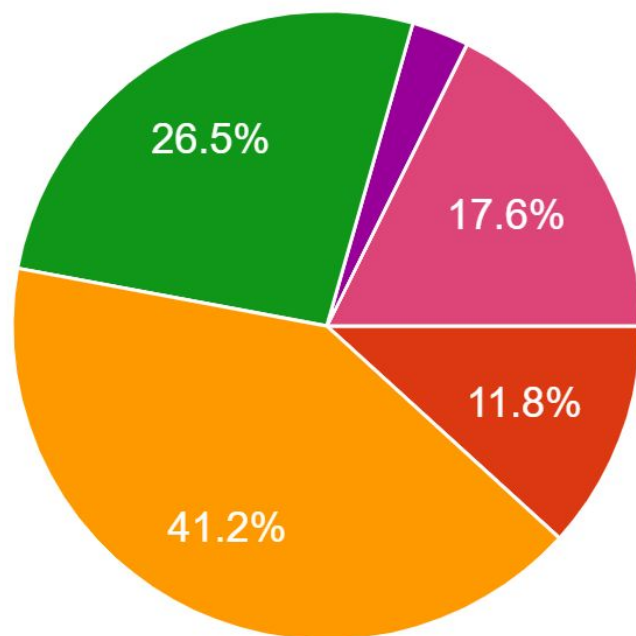
## I have students who are

34 responses



## Who is your main clientele?

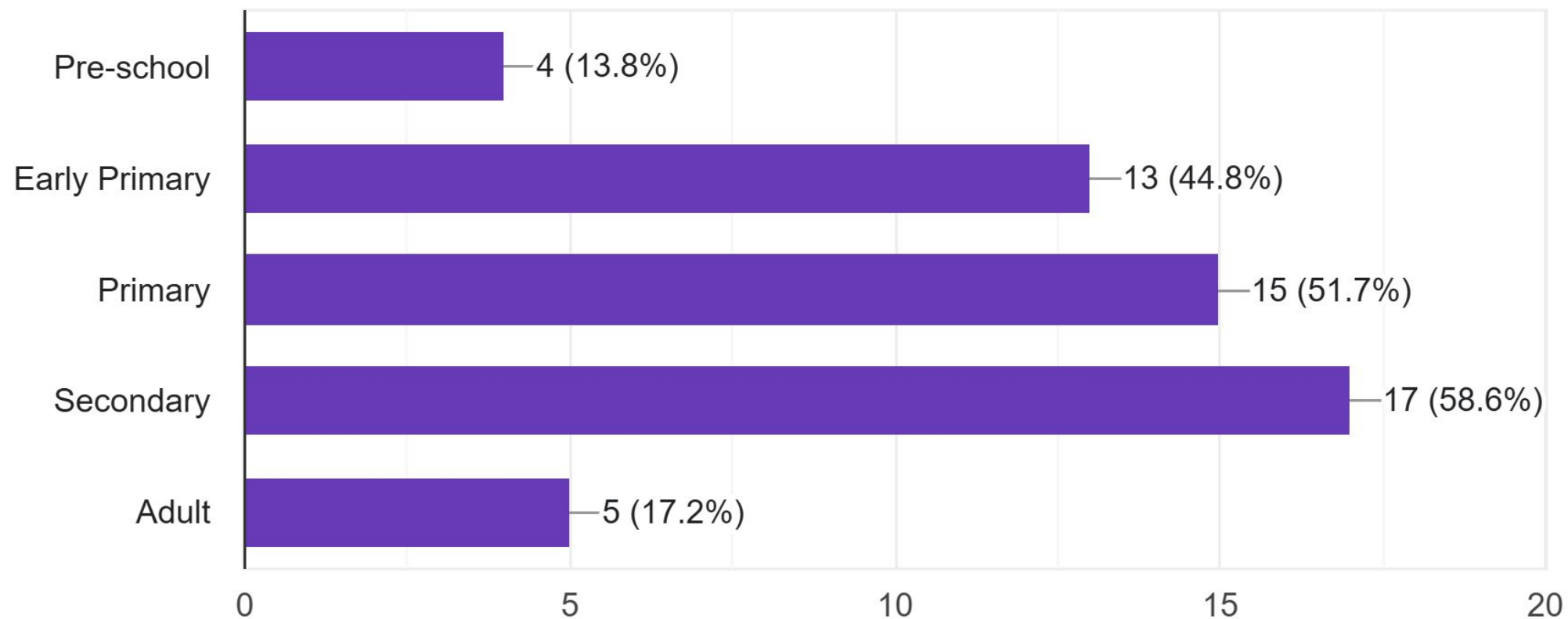
34 responses



- Pre-school
- Early primary
- Primary
- Years 7-10
- Years 11-12
- Adult
- I don't have a primary type of clientele

## Do you also service other clientele?

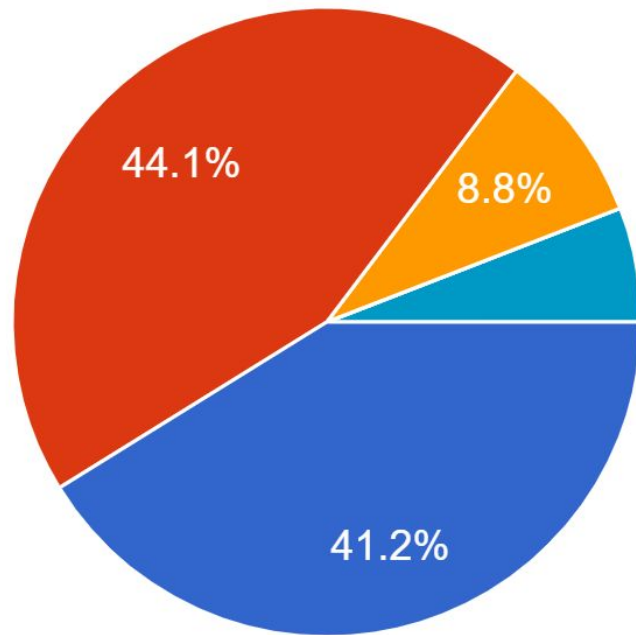
29 responses





## What is your main source of clientele?

34 responses

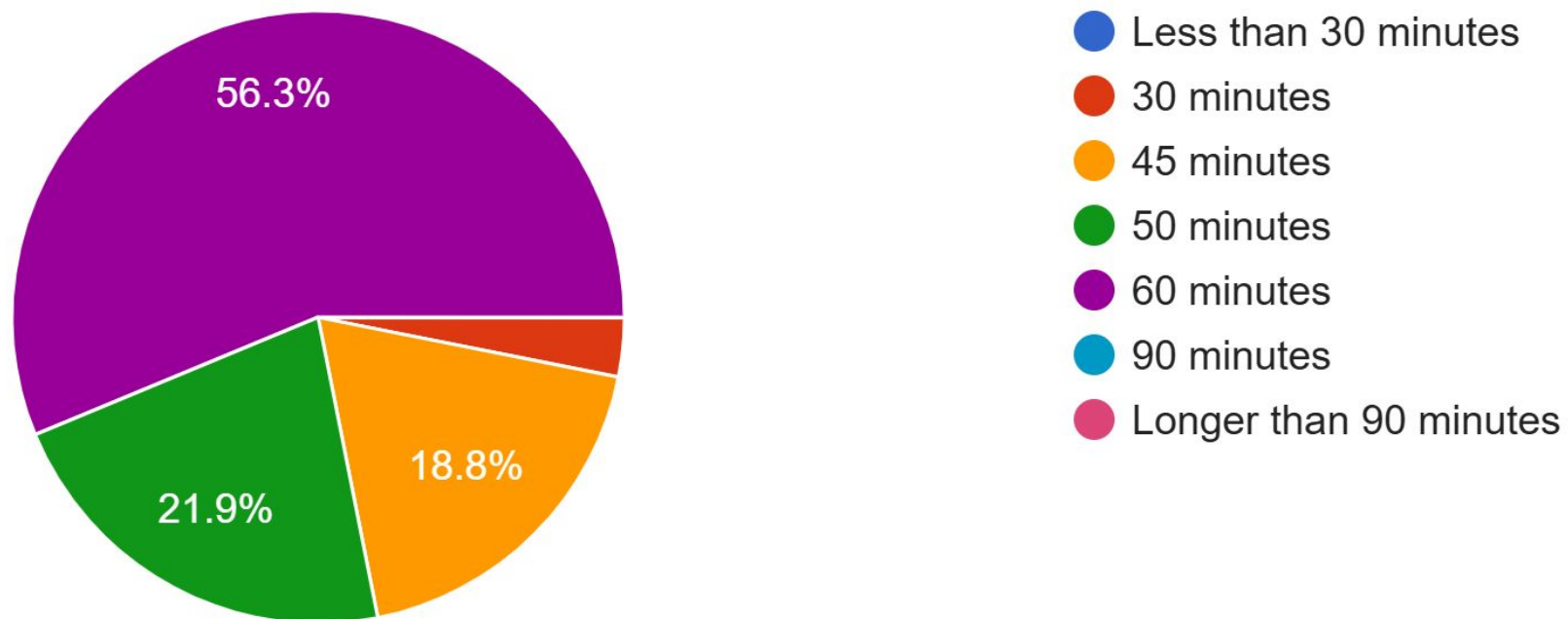


- LDA Online Referral Service (ORS)
- Word of Mouth
- Professional Referrals (Teachers, Allied Health, Doctors, Paediatricians)
- Marketing / Advertising
- Active business promotion i.e. local talks to community groups
- Other

SERVICES

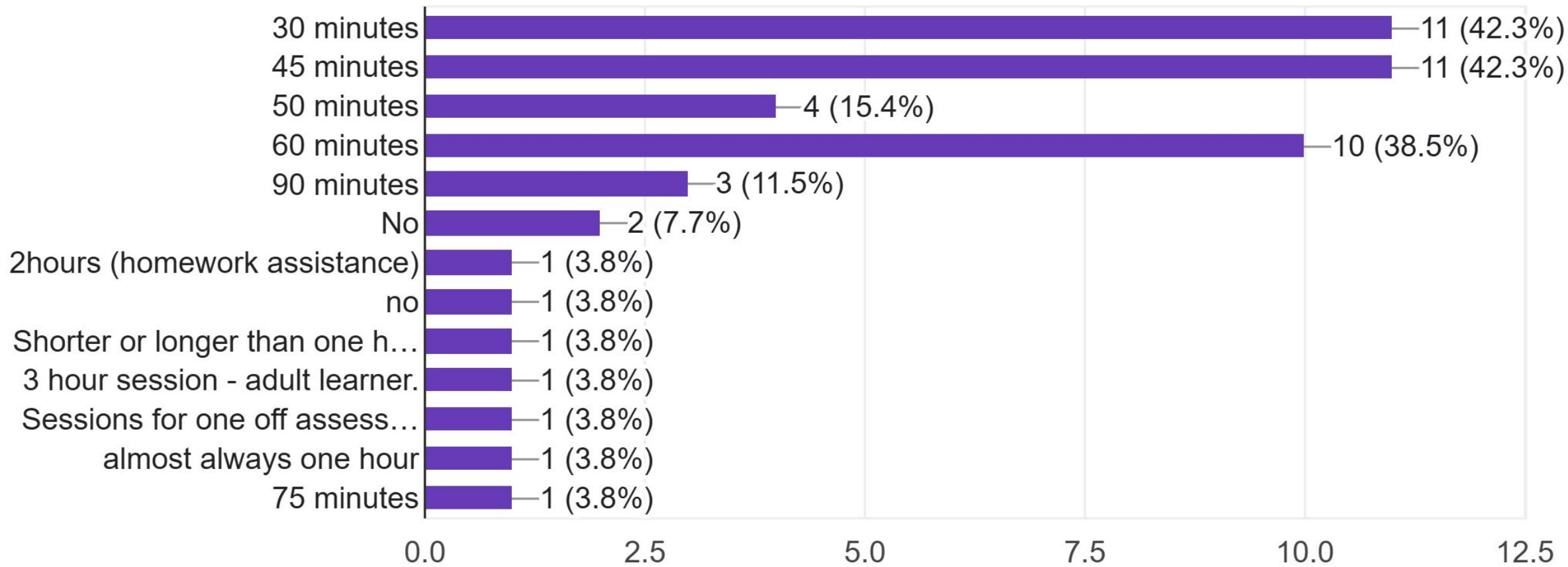
What is the most common session length you provide?

32 responses



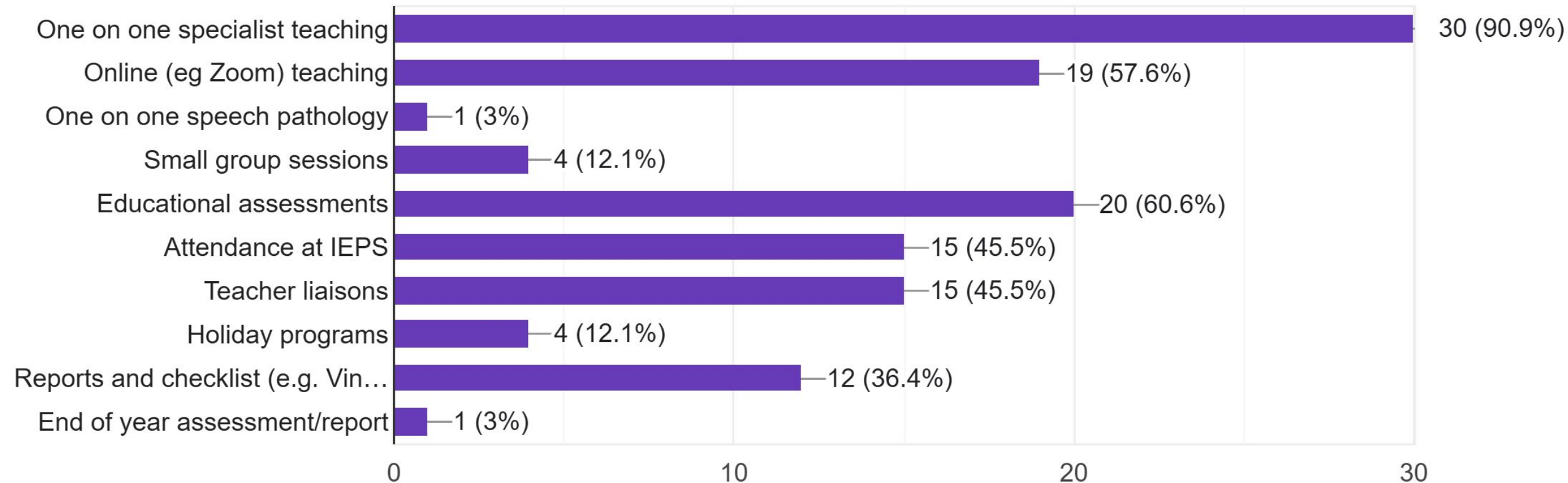
# Do you offer other session lengths?

26 responses



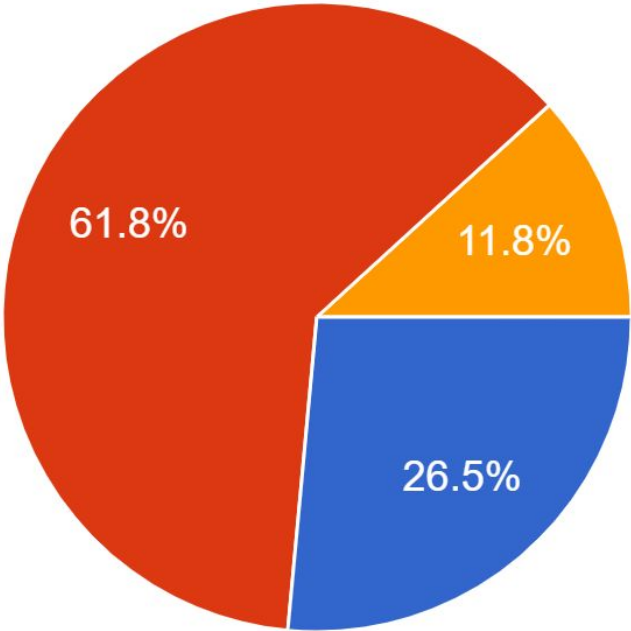
## Do you offer any of the following services?

33 responses



Do parents attend sessions?

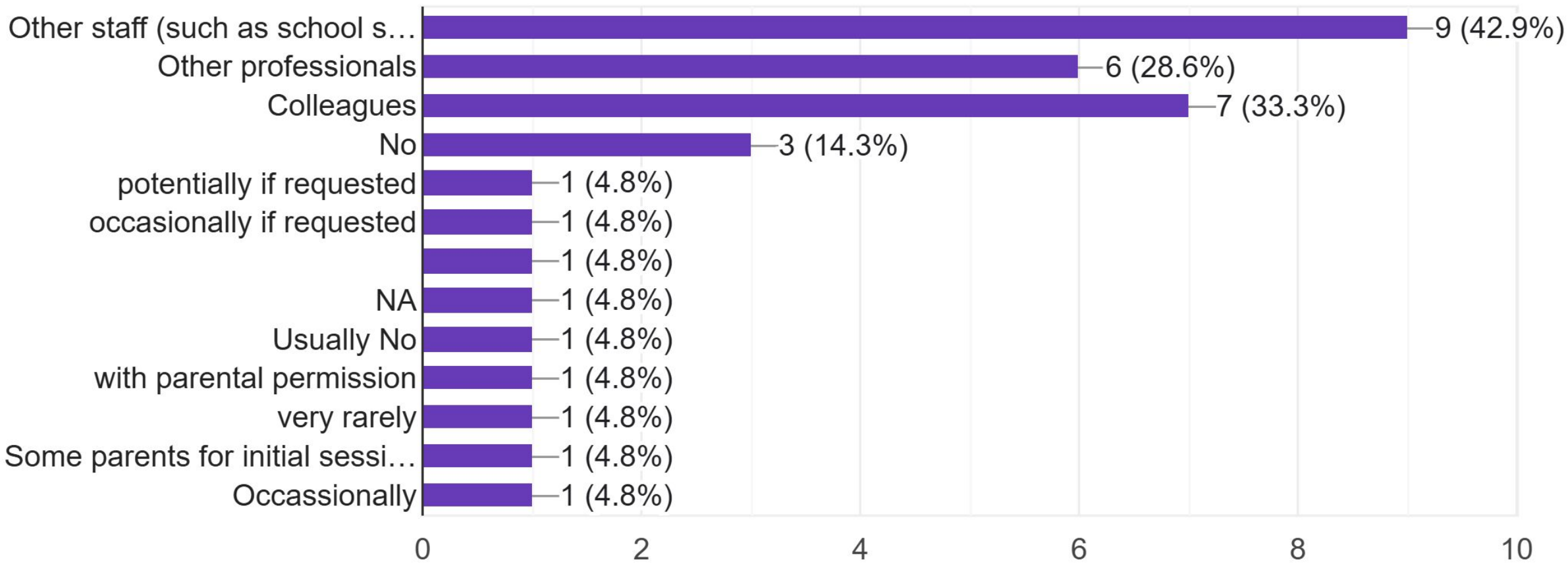
34 responses



- Never
- Sometimes
- Mostly

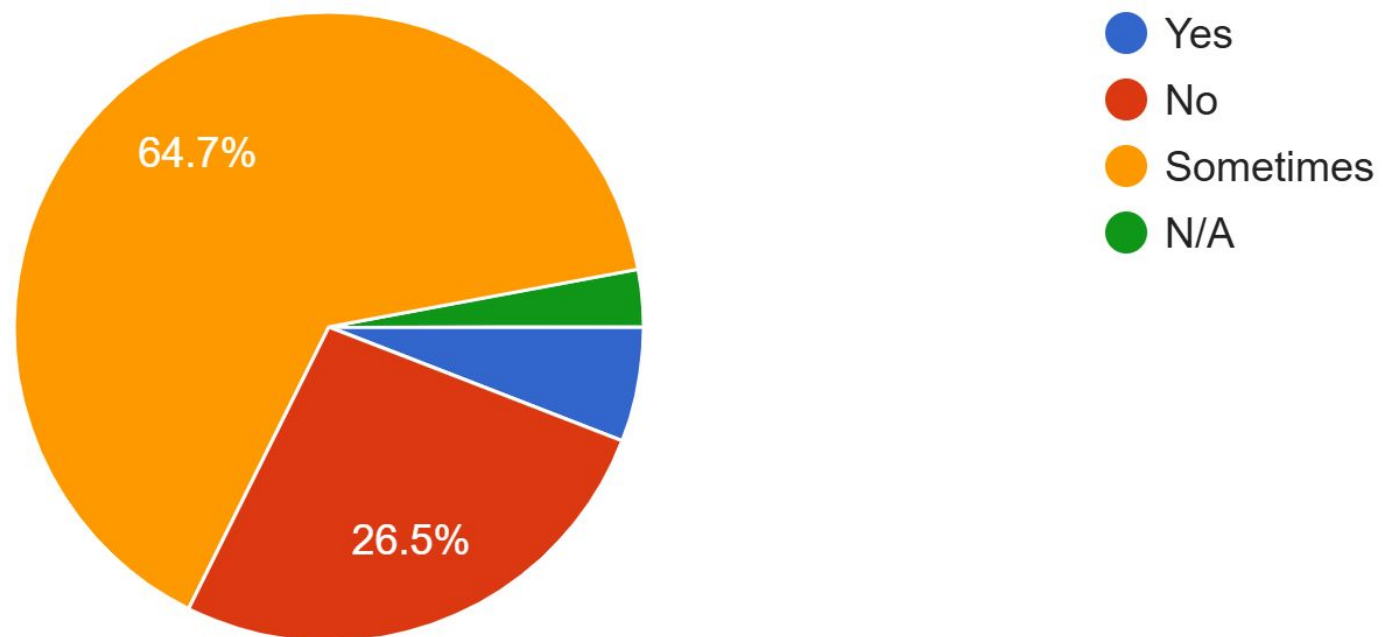
# Do/could others attend sessions?

21 responses



Are you involved in school meetings? eg. IEP

34 responses

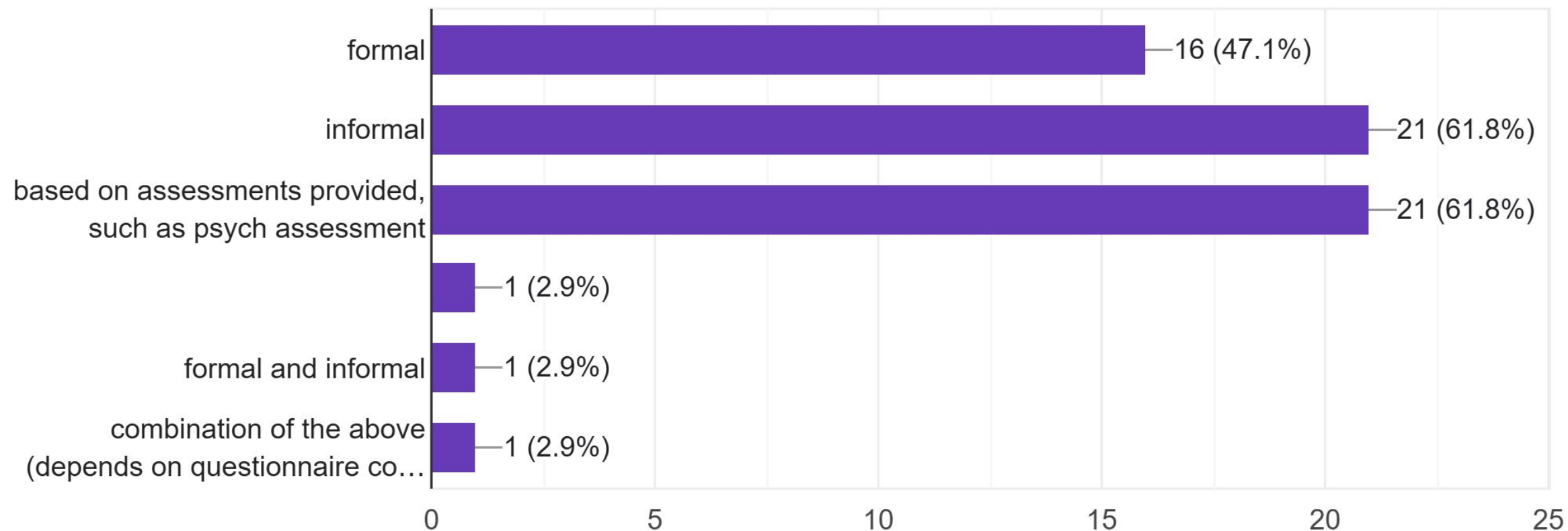




**ASSESSMENT**

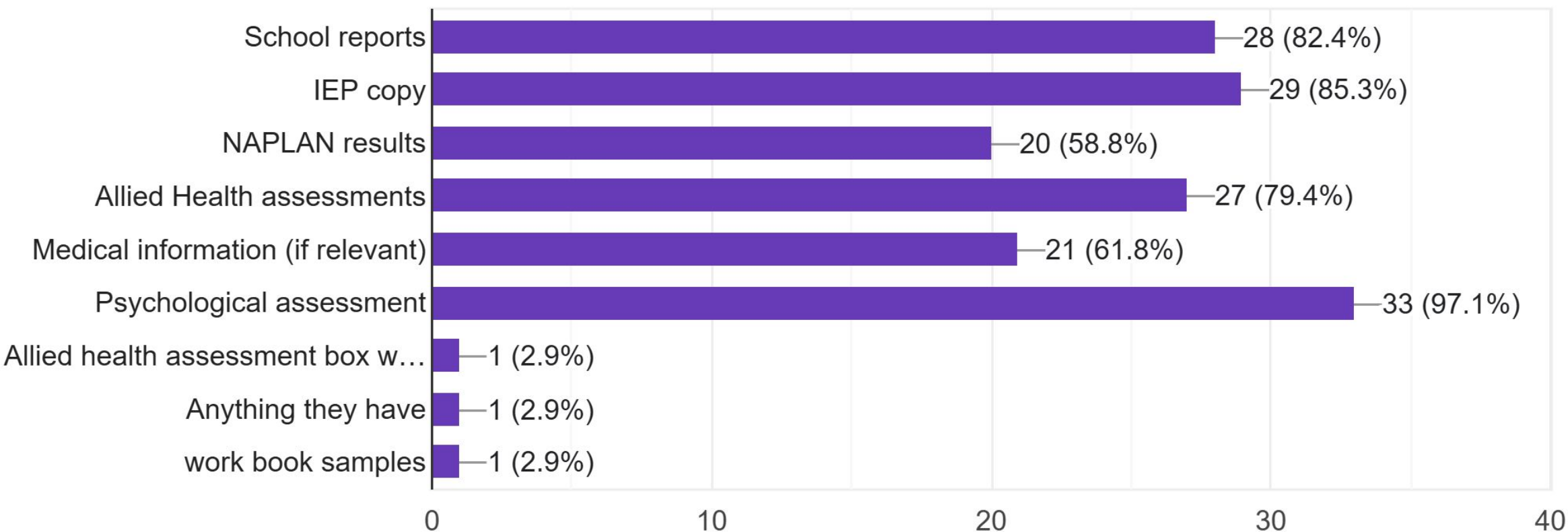
## My intake assessment is

34 responses



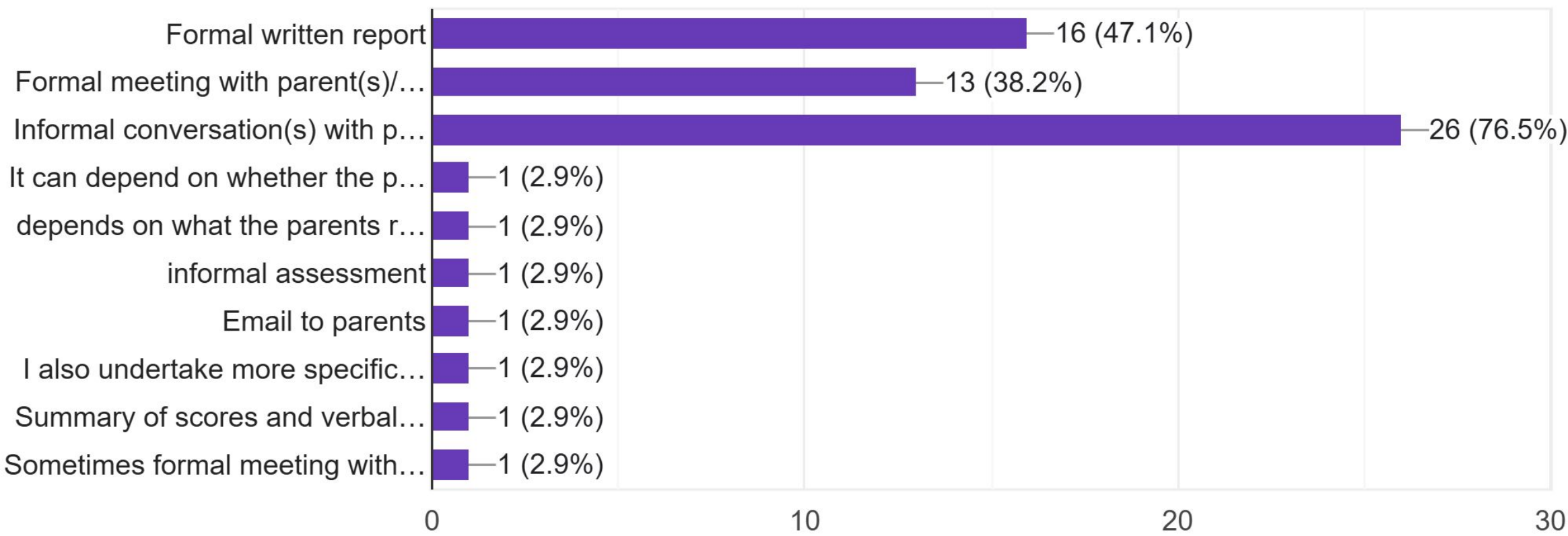
## I usually obtain copies of (where relevant)

34 responses



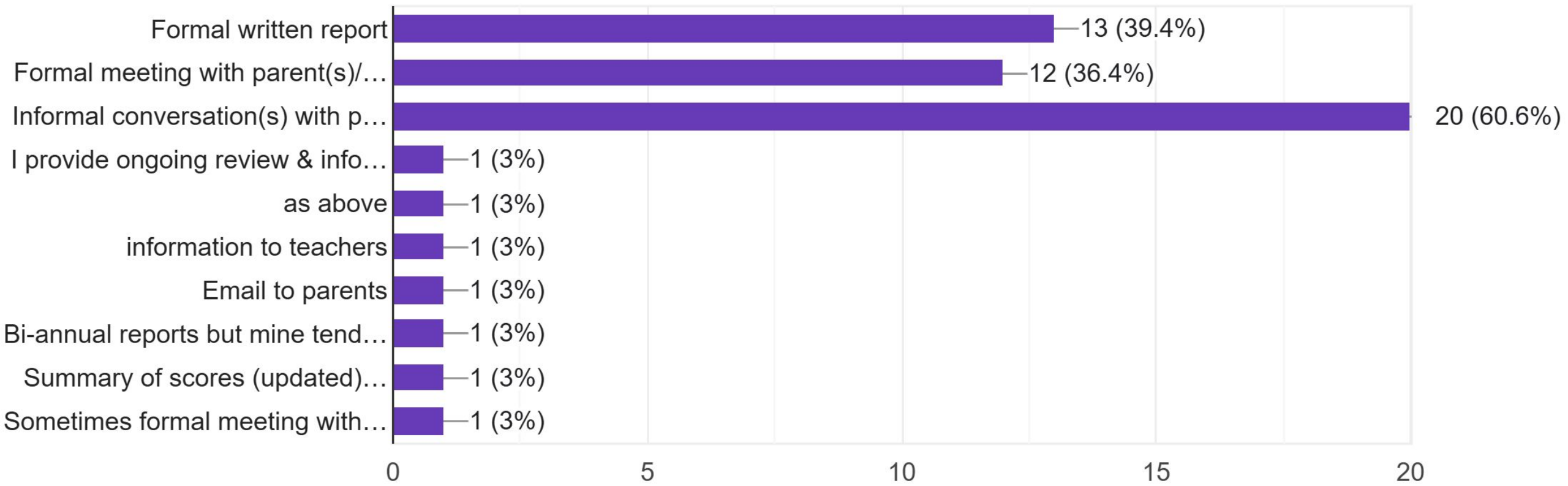
# Initial assessment information is provided by

34 responses



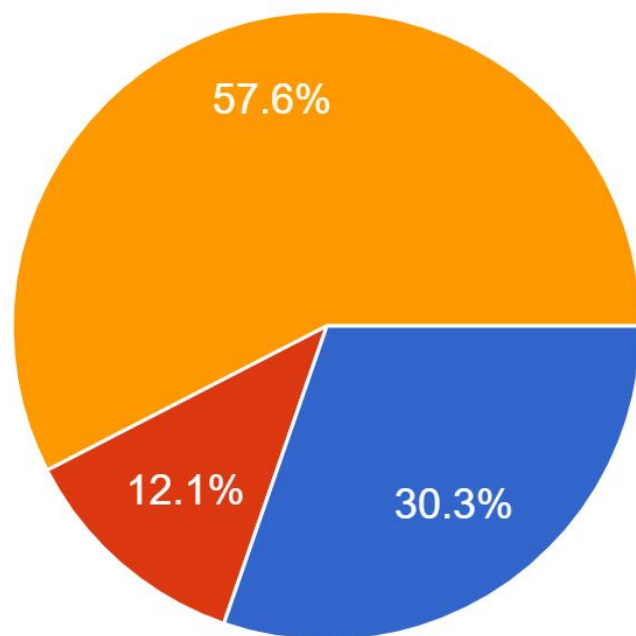
# Post assessment information is provided by

33 responses



## I conduct assessments on program completion

33 responses

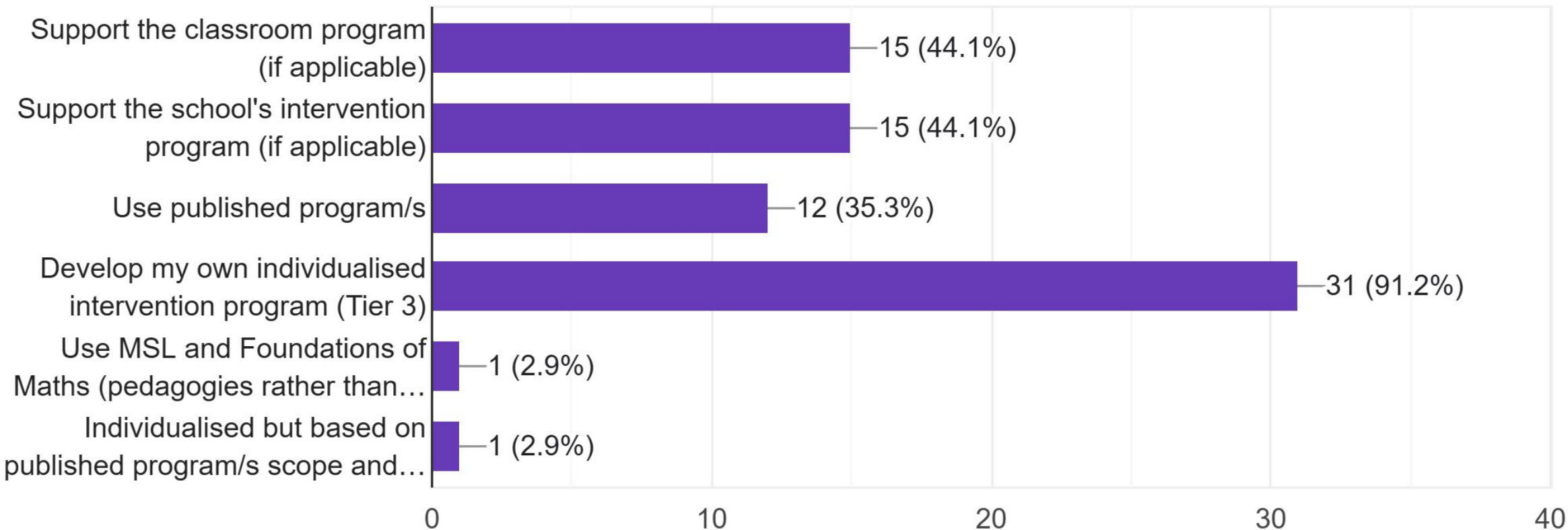


- Yes
- No
- Depends on the situation

PROGRAMS

## I will typically

34 responses





**If you used published program/s, what do you use? LITERACY**

- ✓ I use elements of MSL, Sounds write, supported with decodable books
- ✓ Phonics UK, LLLL, Get Reading Right, Read, Write Inc, Phonics International
- ✓ OCHRE
- ✓ The Fitzroy Program is a useful basic literacy program, which can be supplemented with other material.
- ✓ My literacy teaching always focuses on "phonics."
- ✓ Sounds-Write. Talk for Writing
- ✓ Little learners UK phonics insight publications for secondary
- ✓ Sounds Write, Snappy Sounds, other Structured Literacy - Morphology, Writing etc.
- ✓ Fitzroy, Sounds Write (but only if pushed - don't like it)
- ✓ Sounds Write, morpheme matrices, William van Cleave Writing, megawords
- ✓ DIBELS, Phonic books, All about reading, Alpha to Omega, Probe, SPELD, and others.
- ✓ Sounds Write Little Learners LETRS
- ✓ Bought Texts
- ✓ Phonic Books UK, LLLL, Alpha to Omega, Letters and Sounds, Morph Mastery, Morpheme Magic, The Writing Revolution.
- ✓ Spalding
- ✓ LLLL

- ✓ I develop individual programs for each client, using material based on valid research; e.g., "phonics" approach as used in Fitzroy Program, for example. Kumon workbooks are another useful tool
- ✓ UFLI, Spalding
- ✓ Fitzroy, Sounds Write (but only if pushed - don't like it)
- ✓ Sounds Write, morpheme matrices, William van Cleave Writing, megawords
- ✓ DIBELS, Phonic books, All about reading, Alpha to Omega, Probe, SPELD, and others
- ✓ Sounds Write Little Learners LETRS
- ✓ Bought Texts
- ✓ Phonic Books UK, LLLL, Alpha to Omega, Letters and Sounds, Morph Mastery, Morpheme Magic, The Writing Revolution
- ✓ Literacy for life, LLLL, reading Simplified, Top Notch teaching
- ✓ Australian Spelling Program (Jan Roberts)
- ✓ Little Learners Love Literacy, Morph Mastery, Macquarie University
- ✓ Bought Texts
- ✓ Phonic Books UK, LLLL, Alpha to Omega, Letters and Sounds, Morph Mastery, Morpheme Magic, The Writing Revolution
- ✓ Early Comprehension Plus, Comprehension Plus, More Comprehension Plus, Advanced Comprehension Plus (Jan Roberts)

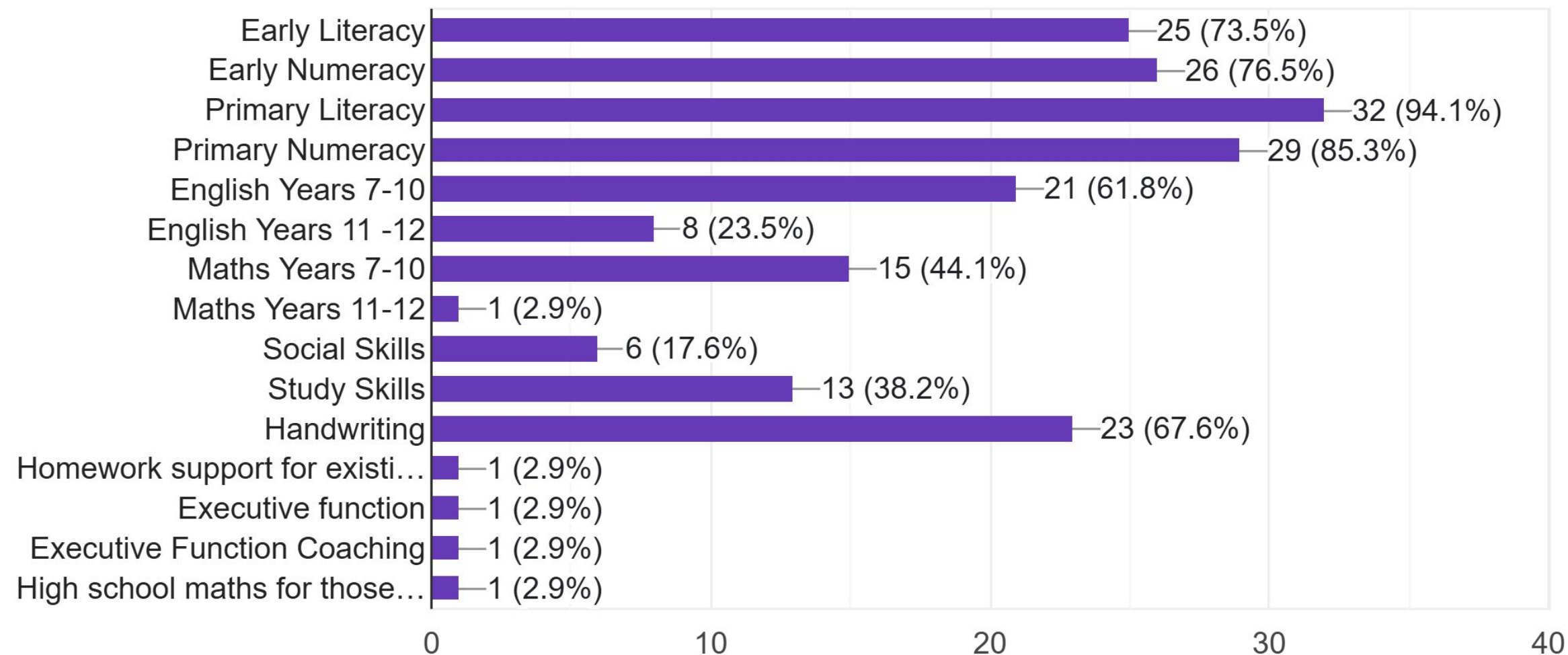
## MATHS

- ✓ Keymaths
- ✓ Math Mastery
- ✓ Steve Chinn tutorials 'Maths Explained'
- ✓ Maths Mate, Number Shark
- ✓ I develop individual programs for each client
- ✓ Kumon workbooks are another useful tool
- ✓ Macquarie University Maths Fluency and Computational Skills  
Dyscalculia Solution
- ✓ Eddie Woo
- ✓ More trouble with maths, Steve Chin
- ✓ Quick Start Numeracy (Anne Bellert)

**WORKLOAD**

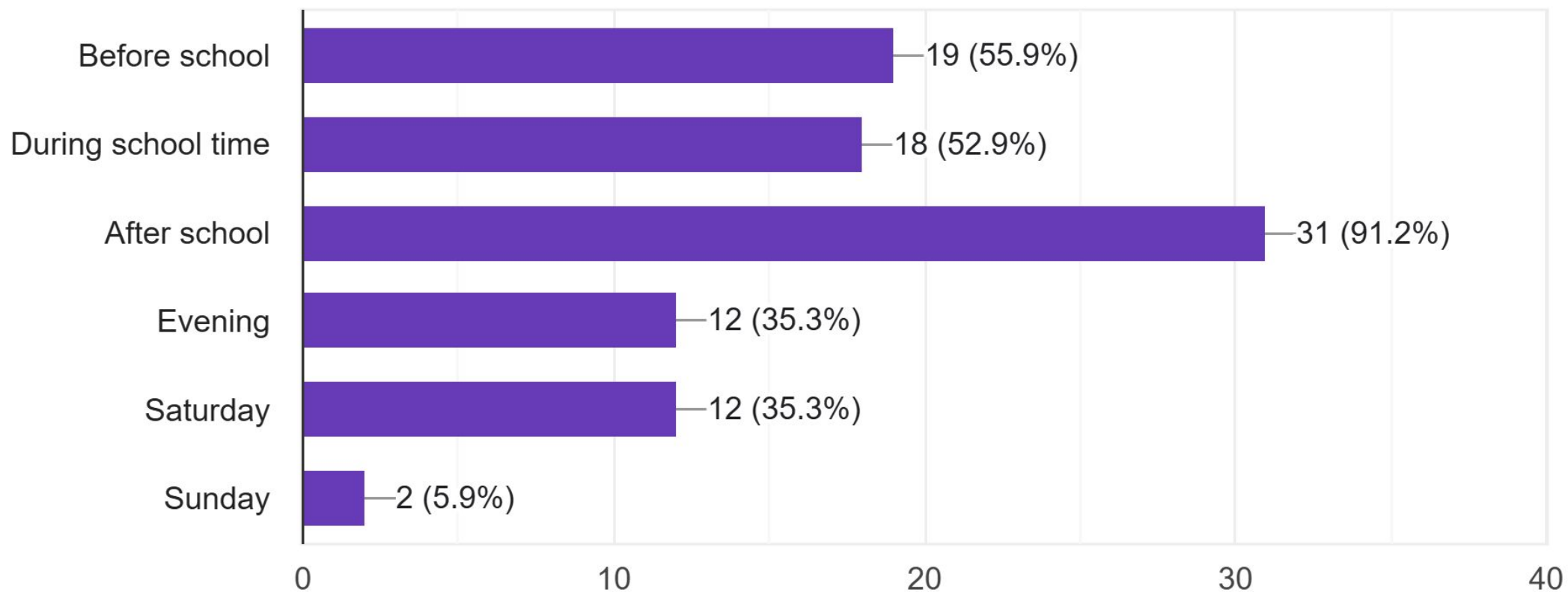
# I offer support in the following areas

34 responses



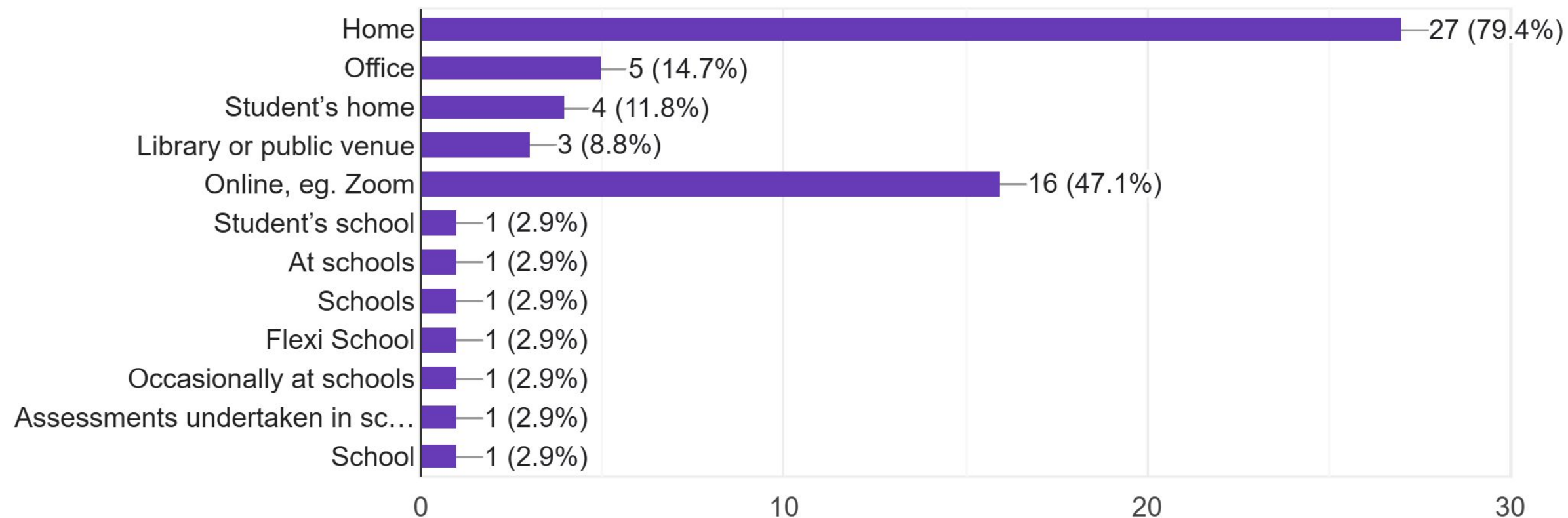
## When do you work?

34 responses



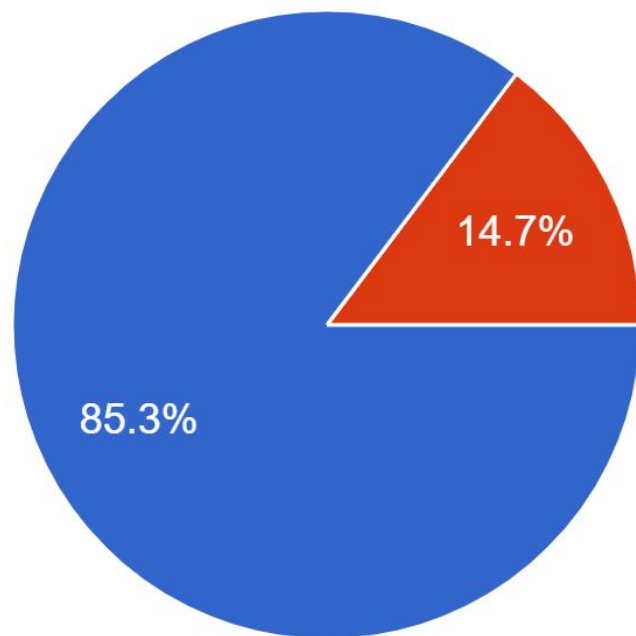
## Where do you work?

34 responses



## For whom do you work?

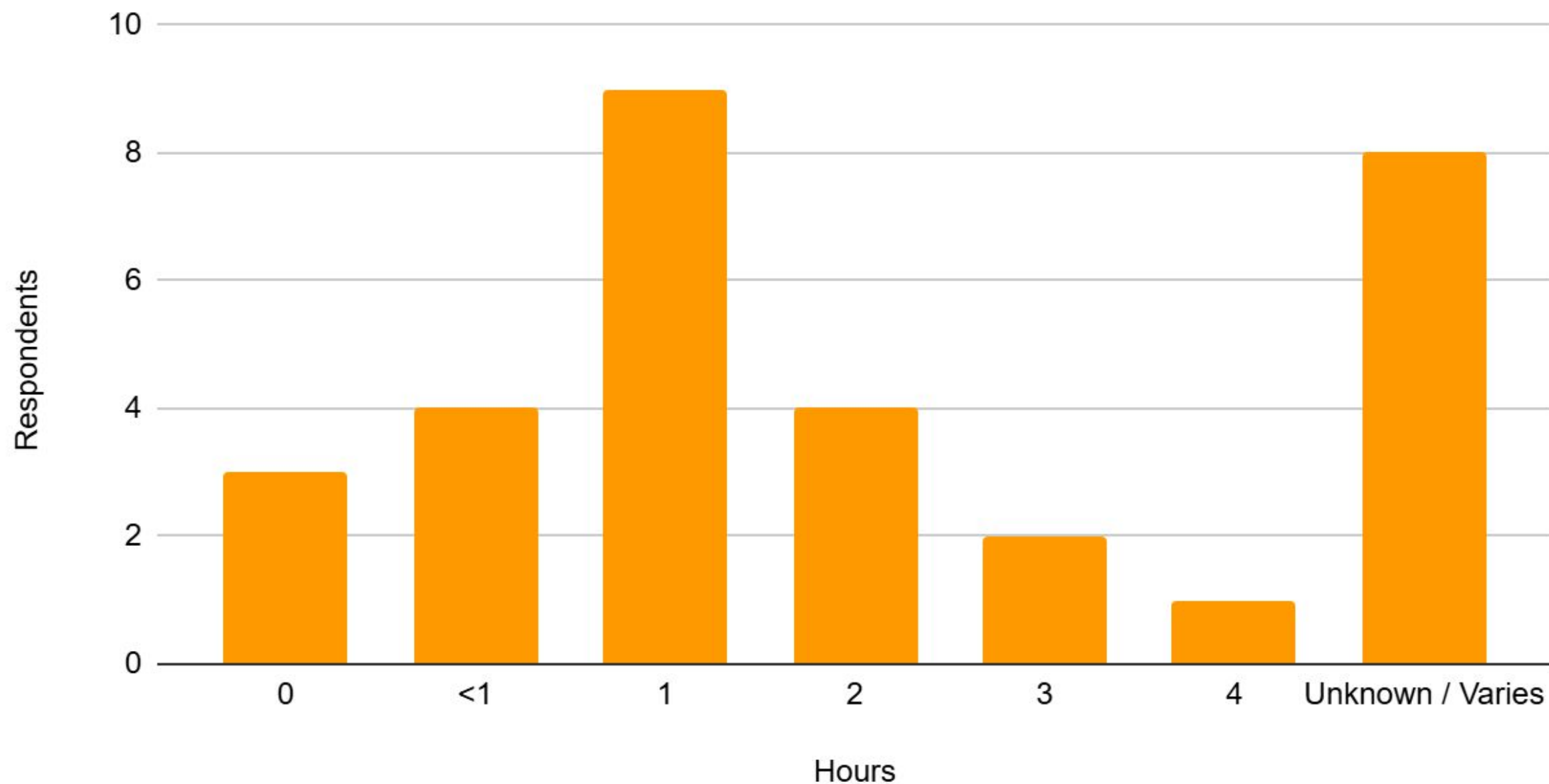
34 responses



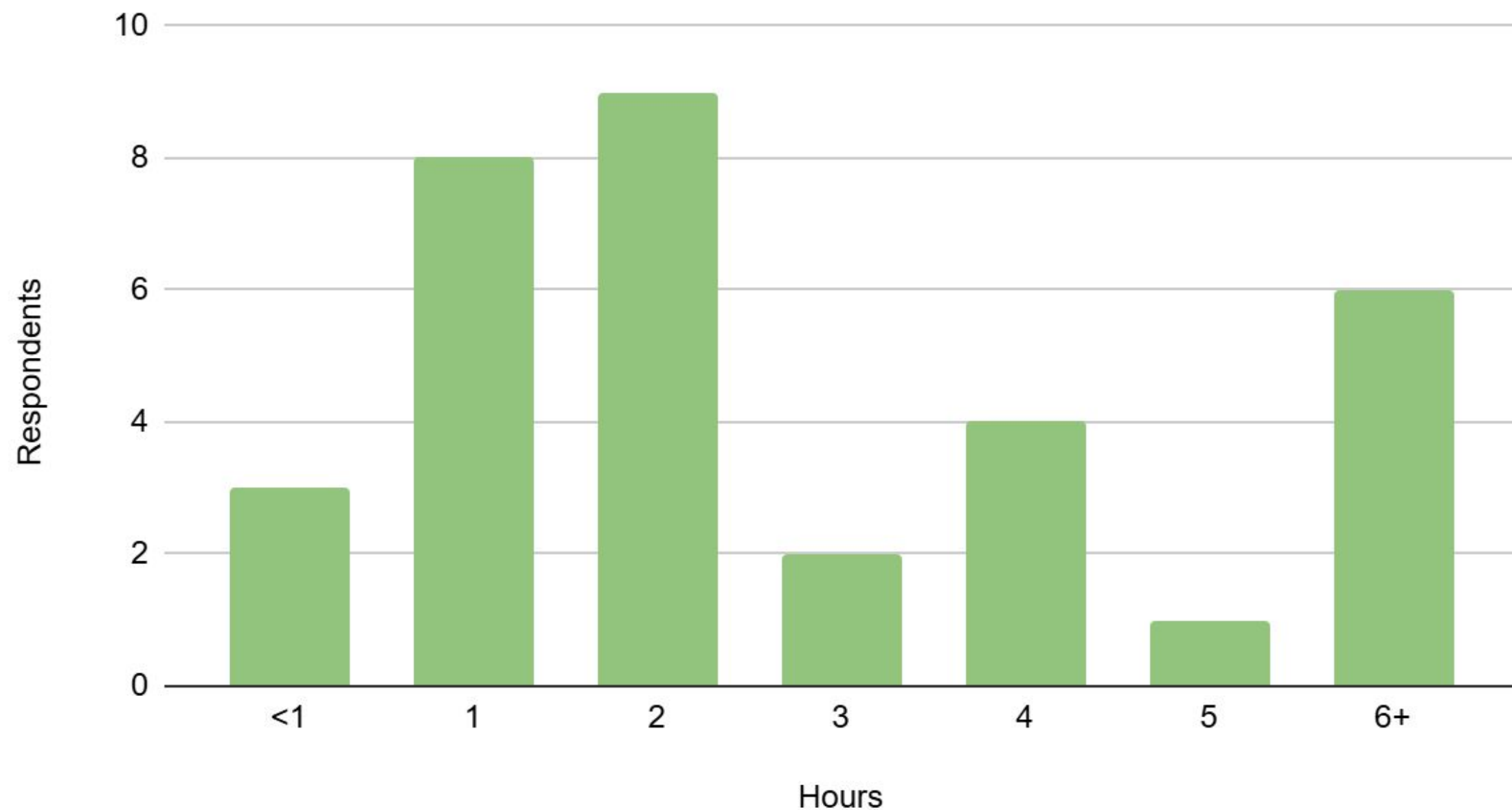
- Myself, as a sole trader
- Myself, under my own business or company (such as a company/PTY LTD)
- A business owned by others
- A school



## Approx. Total Weekly Hrs Spent Liaising with Other Professionals



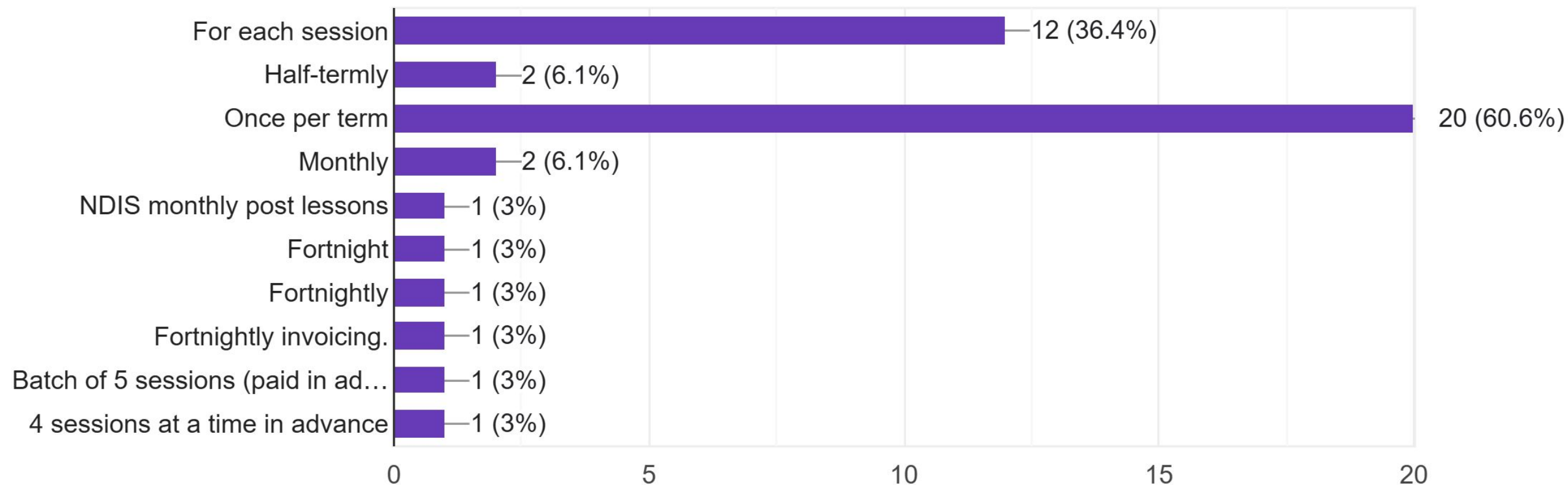
## Approx. Total Weekly Hrs Spent on Admin Tasks



# OFFICE INVOICING AND FEES

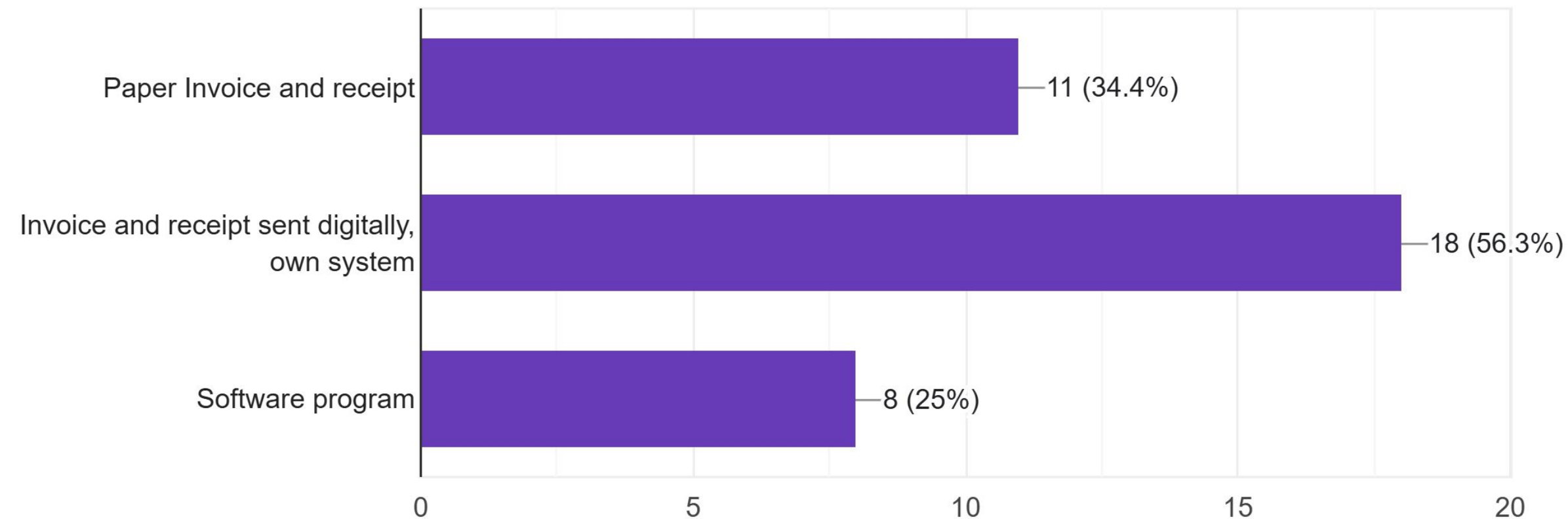
## I offer invoicing...

33 responses



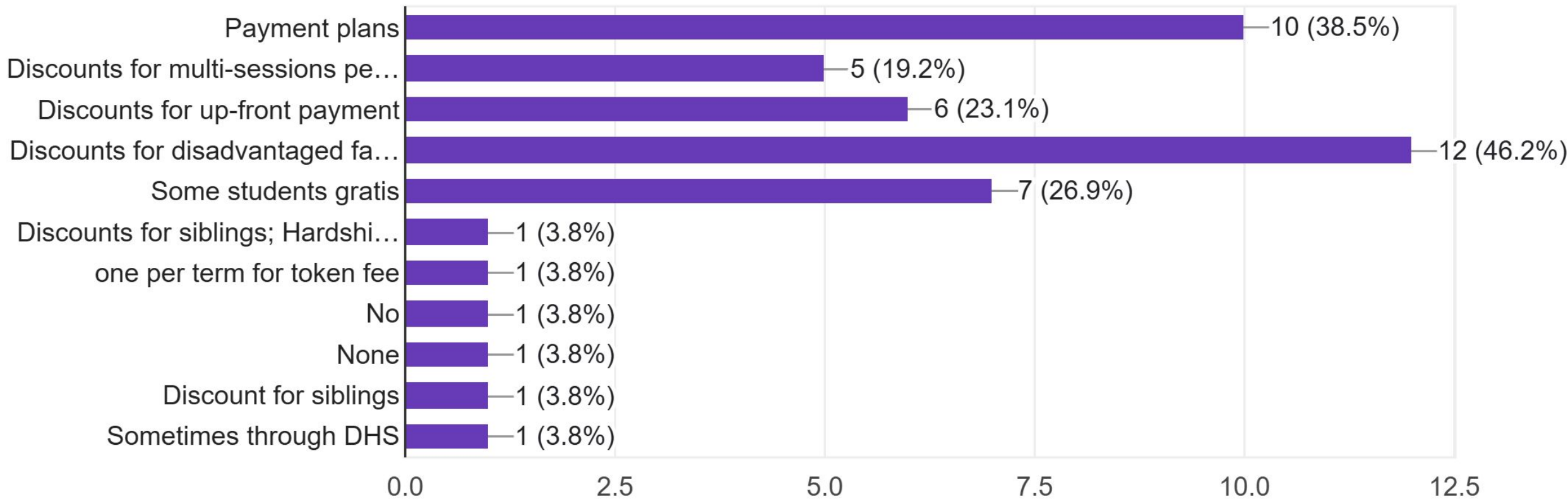
## I invoice by...

32 responses

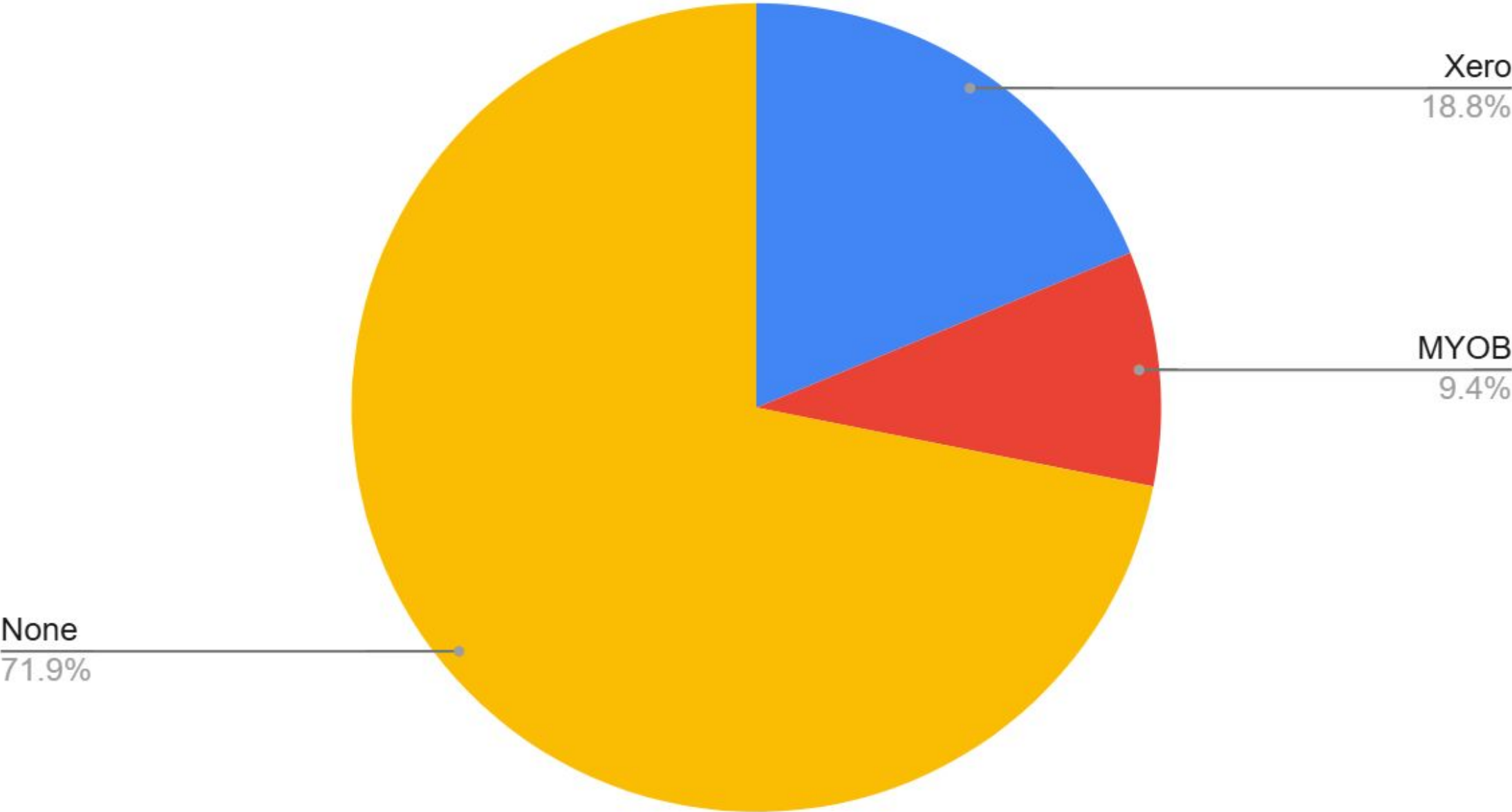


# I offer special arrangements for payment such as...

26 responses

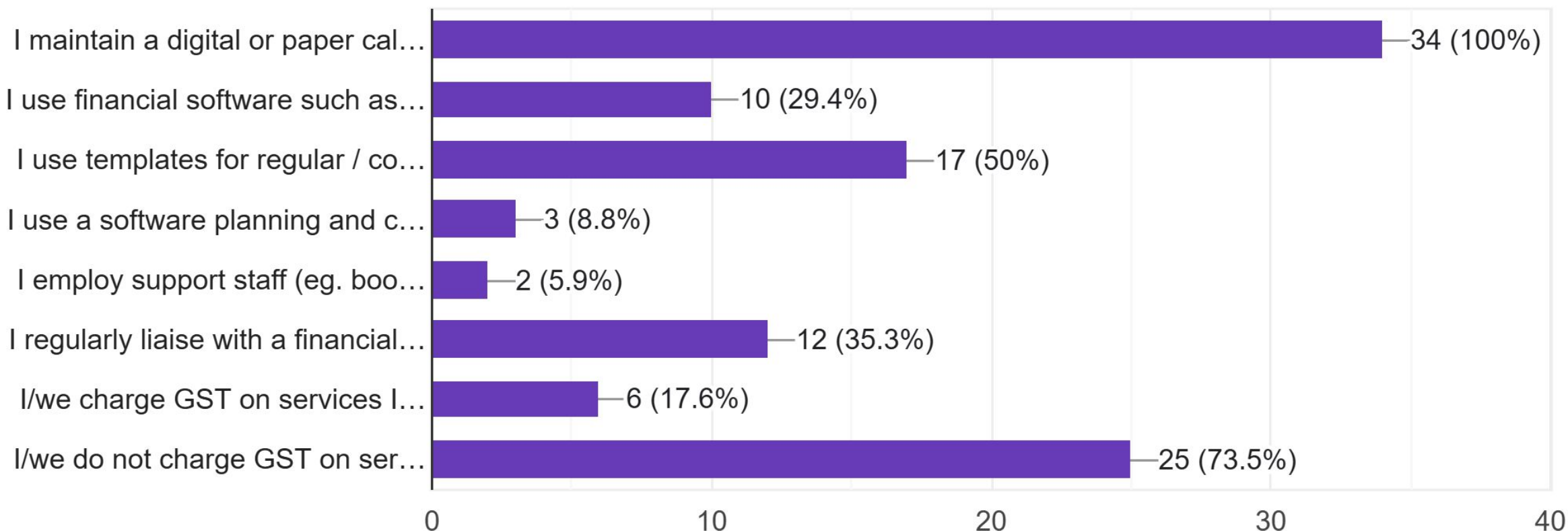


# Invoicing Software



## Regarding your office administration, please check all that apply to you / your business

34 responses



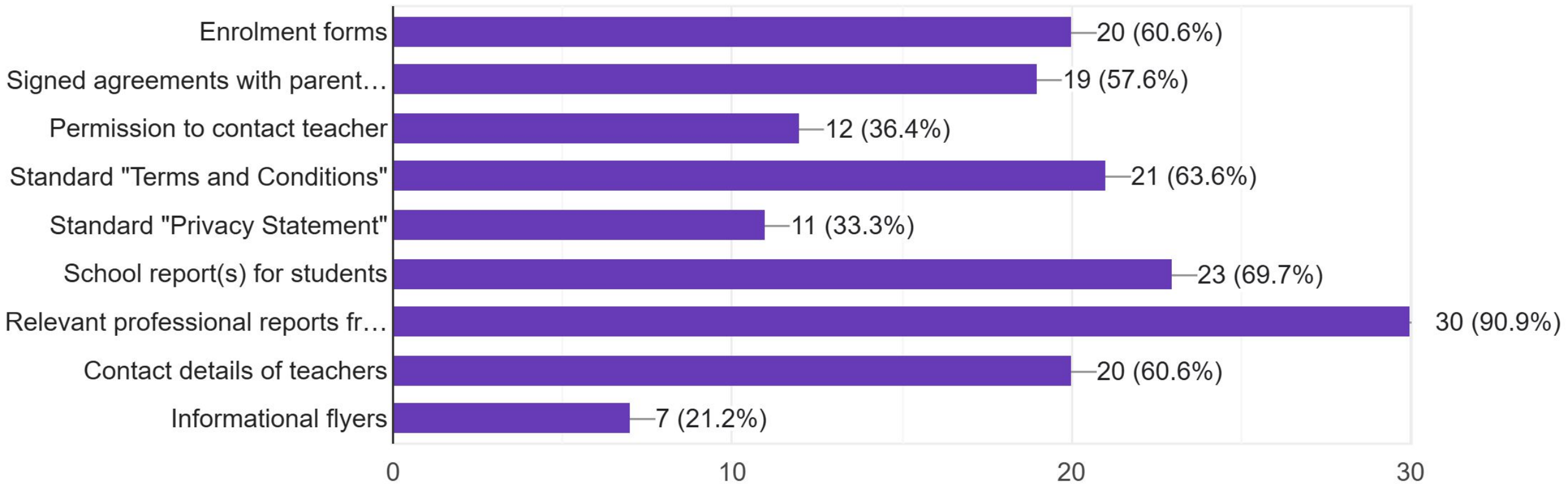


TIME	\$	no	TIME	\$			\$	
60 minutes	175	1	50 minutes	140	1	Shared session each	55	1
	130	2		130	1			
	105	1		90	1			
	120	1		85	1			
	100	3						
Year 7	90	1	30 minutes	50	1			
Year 8	95	1	30 minutes 3x weekly Per week	100	1			
Year 9	100	1						
T's home	80	1						
Other site	75	1						
	60	1						

OFFICE RECORDS

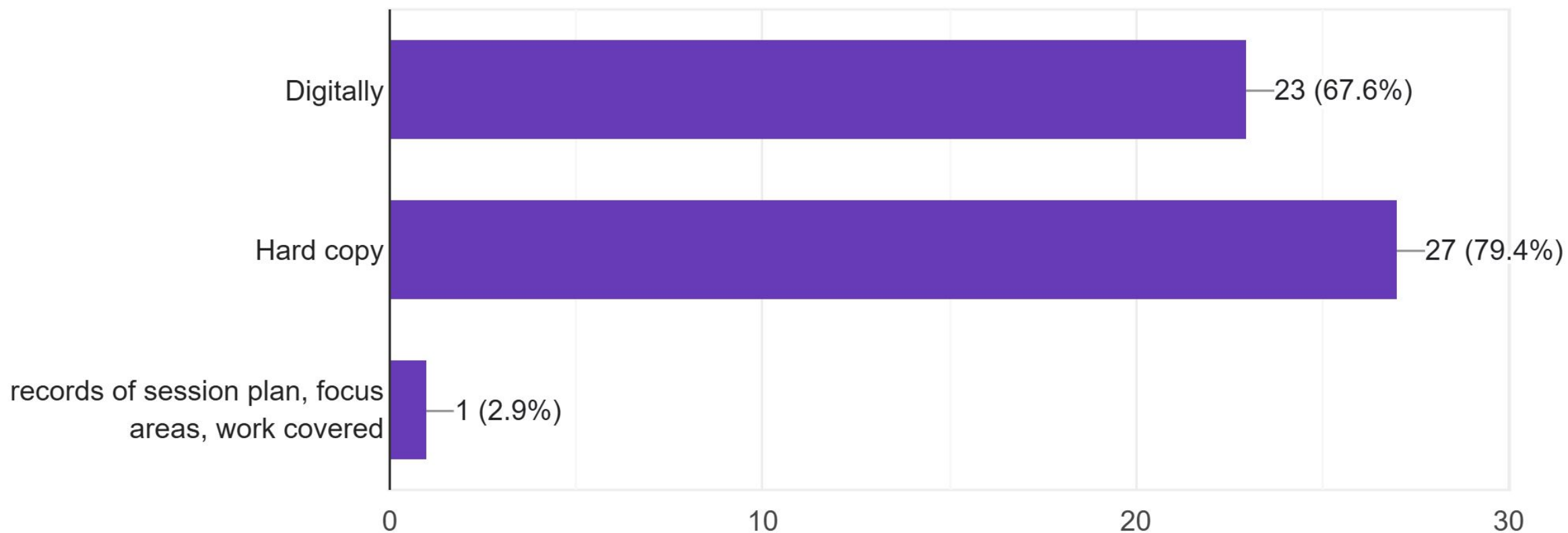
# Which of these records/document do you keep/supply? (Please check all that apply)

33 responses



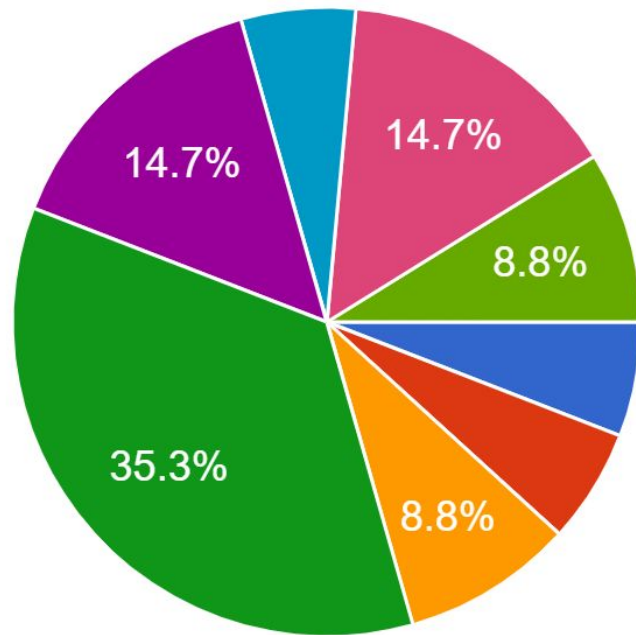
## How do you store documents?

34 responses



How long do you typically keep documents related to your clients (pick the option that best applies)

34 responses

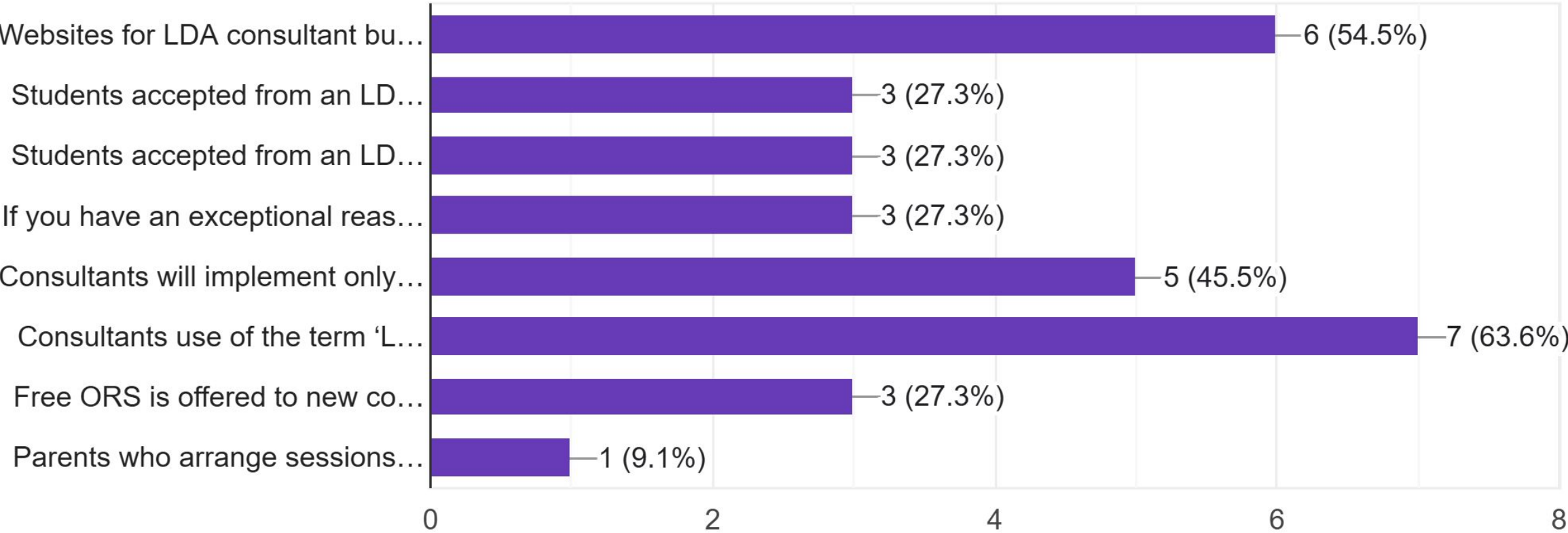


- Shorter than 3 years
- 3 years
- 5 years
- 7 years
- Longer than 7 years
- So long as I am servicing the client
- It varies quite a bit depending on the document
- I have no typical time I keep documents

# GUIDELINES, ETHICS AND FEEDBACK

As you will be aware, complying with LDA's guidelines and ethics documentation is critical to being an LDA consultant. Would you like some further inf...e on any of the below key areas of the guidelines?

11 responses



## GUIDELINES AND ETHICS

1. Websites for LDA consultant businesses, and/or an email signature, may contain only information, including qualifications, specifically **relevant to this service** and no other
2. Students accepted from an LDA source will be taught **only** by the LDA Consultant to whom the referral was directed
3. Students accepted from an LDA source will be taught **individually** by the LDA consultant
4. If you have an exceptional reason to include an LD sourced student in **group teaching**, you will seek **permission** from the Consultant Coordinator



5\*. Consultants will **implement only practices** which are **supported by scientific evidence** or have a sound theoretical rationale to support their implementation

6. Consultants **may use** the term '**LDA Consultant Specialist Teacher**' and the **LDA logo** to promote their consultancy on items such as business cards, brochures, and email signatures. The logo may also be available, with permission from the Professional Development Committee Convenor, to promote PD presentations on behalf of LDA

7. Free ORS is offered to **Victorian regional and non-Victorian** consultants until they have **3 LDA referred students**

## GUIDELINES CHANGE Section 5 a) iv. ORS

- Consultants who do not meet all annual renewal requirements by the due date will be removed from the ORS after **7 days**.
- Access can be restored by contacting the Business Administrator at [consultant.enquiries@ldaustralia.org](mailto:consultant.enquiries@ldaustralia.org)

## GUIDELINES CHANGE Section 5 f ii. \*

- Keep up to date with *evidence-based research* on learning difficulties so that your work reflects current research.
- **If you have any questions regarding whether courses/programs are evidence-based/informed, please contact the Consultant Convenor.**

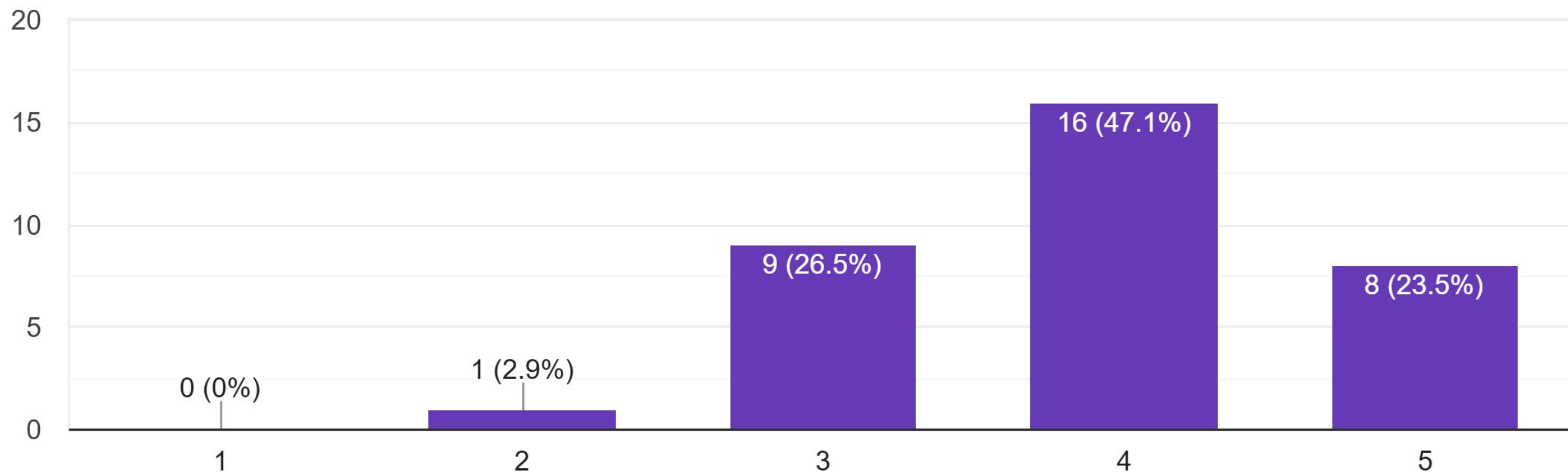
## . Storage of information

- - Storing details of clients, such as names and contact details must be kept safe.
  - This applies in particular to records on computers and especially on laptops or tablets which are more likely to be lost or stolen.
  - Digital records must be PIN, password or biometric protected (two-factor identification is recommended).
  - Physical records must be kept in locked storage.
  - Ensure that you provide your customers with a privacy policy advising how their information will be stored and used.

FEEDBACK

Indicate your current level of satisfaction with LDA support for consultants (where 1 is the lowest, 5 is the highest)

34 responses



## **Ways that LDA could be more effective in its support of consultants and their clients**

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- PD events are valuable and very much appreciated, but sometimes are unaffordable
- Maintain PD opportunities

### NETWORK MEETINGS

- Provide more information on the value of attending and participating in Network meetings.
- Ever since Covid, my LDA group has met on Zoom. I have not found this nearly as interesting or helpful as the face-to-face get-togethers we used to have. Zoom meetings are not useful for establishing personal relationships. In former years, I used to consult colleagues on issues such as teaching and assessment materials. Informal chatting was a way of collecting useful information

### SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

- I don't actually operate / advertise as a LDA consultant provider - I'm operating as a Speech Pathologist however I stay as a LDA consultant to support others as I can

## PROBLEMS WITH WEBSITE RENEWALS

\* **NEWS!!!!!! Over to Elaine**

- Renewals: The website is difficult to manage, particularly in regards to registration tasks, and the ORS wants to charge again if you click it off, and then back on again due to availability.
- It would help volunteers if consultants submitted their renewals accurately and on time
- Individual professional support/guidance/advice (specifically re difficult clients/situations).
- LDA renewal procedure needs to be simplified and the uploading of documents needs to be easier to administer
- Keep better tabs on a/c. i wasn't billed in feb although my a/c said I was

## PROBLEMS WITH PARENTS

- Parents contact us make arrangements to come, then either cancel or don't come. I think parents should have to come for a minimum time if they decide on an appt. Also parents organise to see 2 consultants and after first lesson cancel one.
- I think there should be more guidelines for parents, eg, minimum number of lessons to start.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

- Would like free information on the latest practices recommended to consultants.
- Team building through frequent communications, and frequent consultant meetings/events/PD etc to bring people together
- Check in via a telephone call, perhaps once a semester, i.e. twice a year, to make sure all is well. This would be touching base further to the termly Network Meetings, as over time lack of communication could create difficulties
- Support for consultants in WA



## HELP AVAILABLE

You may need help in developing your business. You can follow up on any of these:

- Developing a website
- Marketing/social media
- Employing staff etc
- Using electronic diaries/note keeping/invoicing software (H: I have used *Writeupp* and *Halaxy* in the past for this)

Contact:

- Bec at *Enquiries LDA* <[enquiries@ldaaustralia.org](mailto:enquiries@ldaaustralia.org)>
- Hema at *Hema Desai* <[ed.manager@ldaaustralia.org](mailto:ed.manager@ldaaustralia.org)>

WRAP UP

## **IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK ON THIS SESSION**

**To every participant today**

In Chat, your brief responses to today's PD :

1. The best thing about today was .....
2. A final comment, request or question: .....

***TH... TH... TH... THAT'S ALL FOLKS***



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