Survey of candidates participating in the AMC Workplace-based assessment program

Investigators:

Liz Farmer

Barry McGrath

Stephanie Tozer

Fiona van der Weide

Australian Medical Council Limited

Demographics

- Response rate to survey: 82%
- Gender response: 76% Male, 24% female
- Age range median: 31- 40 years
- Median years working in Australian health care system: 1 – 4 years
- Majority have never sat the AMC clinical exam
- Approximately half were not on the AMC clinical exam waiting list

Work History

Years	Working as a doctor outside Australia	Working as a doctor in Australia
< 1 year	9	35
1-4 years	74	87
5-9 years	49	30
10-14 years	18	7
15-19 years	8	1
> 20 years	3	1

Common reasons for joining WBA program

- Didn’t want to do the clinical exam (wait time)
- Didn’t like the clinical exam structure
- Liked structure of the WBA program

Selected candidate quotes:

- ‘Best way of assessment, practical, hospital environment, clinically best, patient based, real signs and symptoms In patient, direct contact with patient as candidate gets time for study, not one day exam, Good preparation time between cases.’

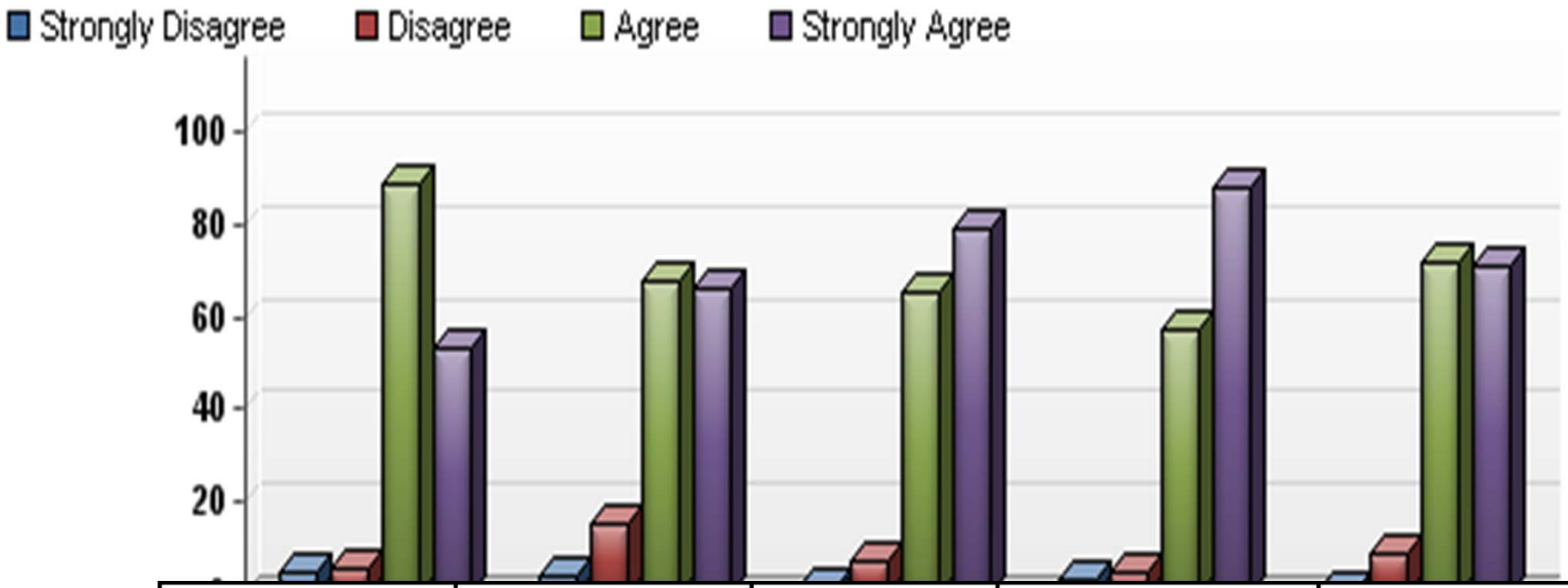
Selected candidate quotes:

- ‘Doing assessments over 6 months in your actual work place seemed to me much more fair than doing a 1 day assessment (In the AMC part 2) in which your physical and mental health status that day will affect your performance! I liked the Idea a lot.’

Selected candidate quotes:

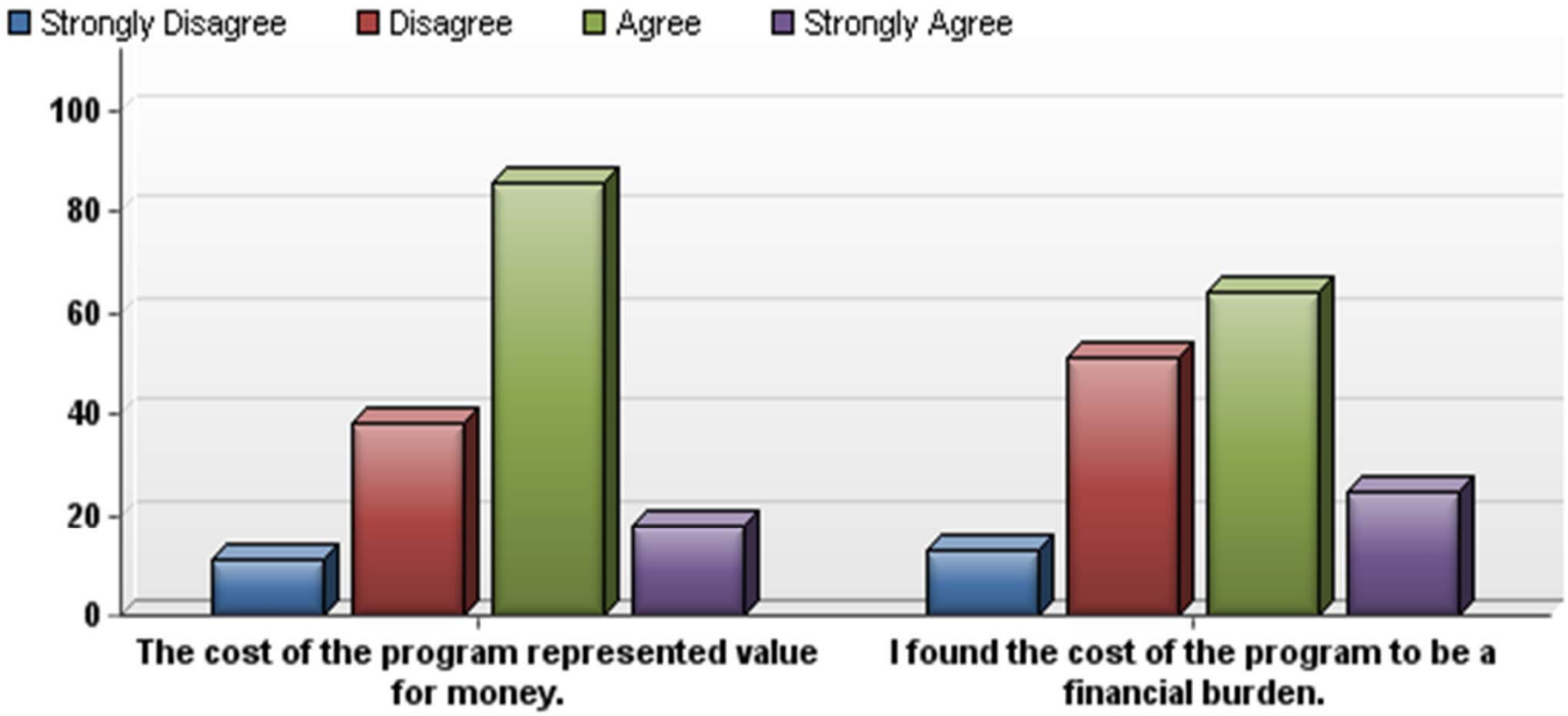
- ‘I found it easier to spread all the assessments over 9 months and prepare for them one by one, rather than preparing for all the assessments at the same time. I also found it less stressful, by doing the assessment in a more familiar environment (my workplace).’

Program organisation results

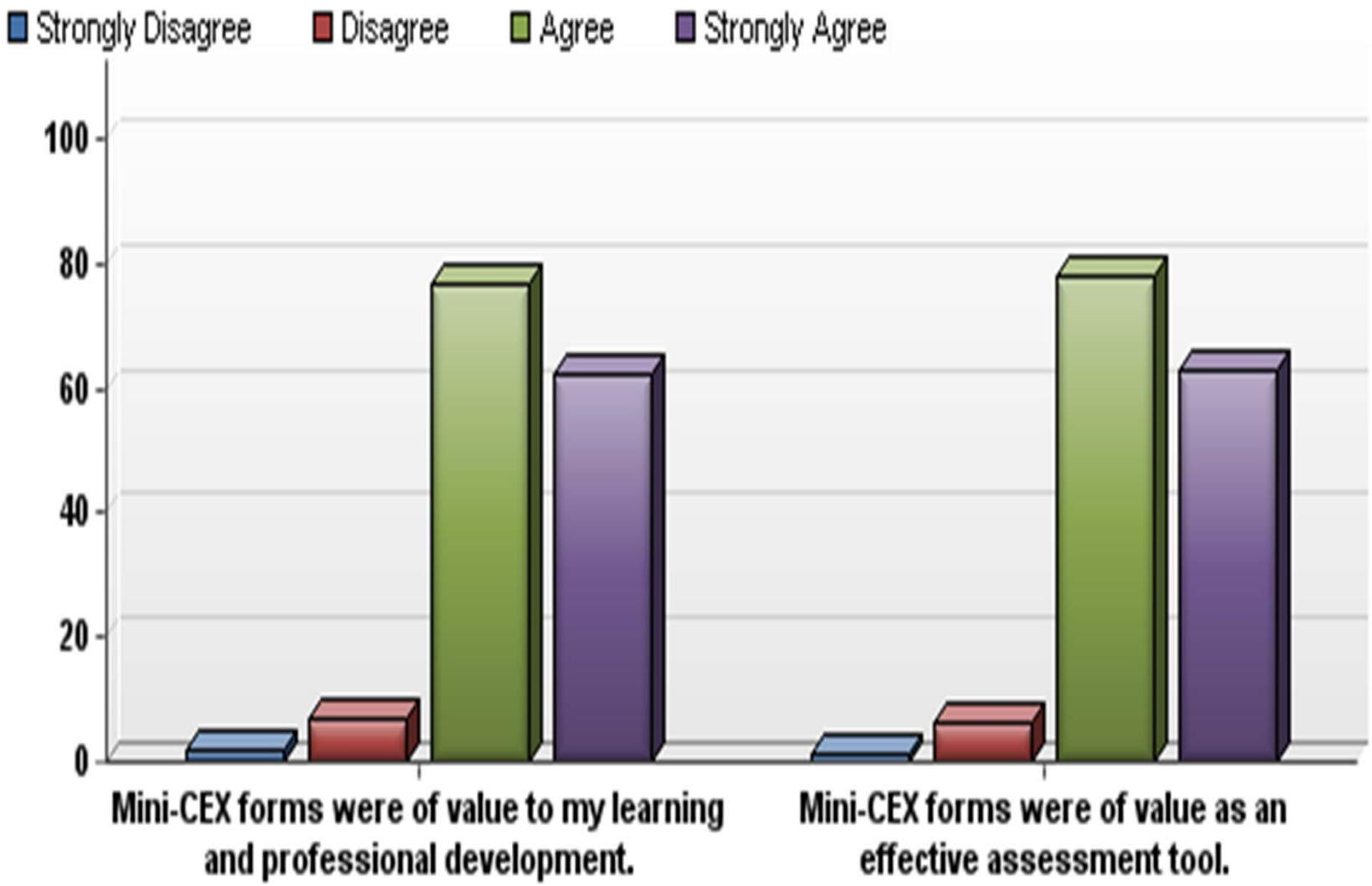


Orientation Satisfactory	Program well organised	Team was efficient	Team was approachable	Team helped me complete program

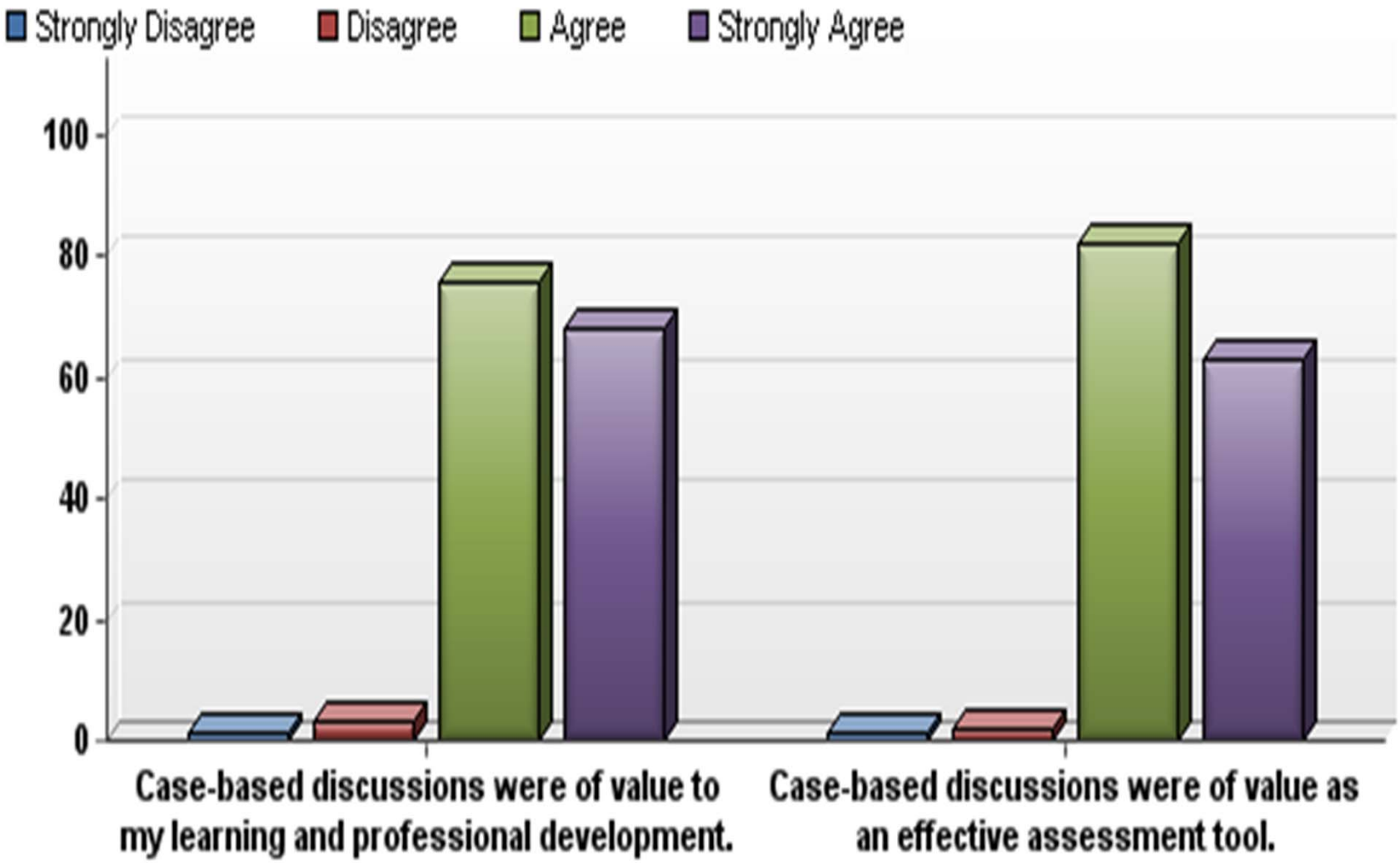
Cost of program



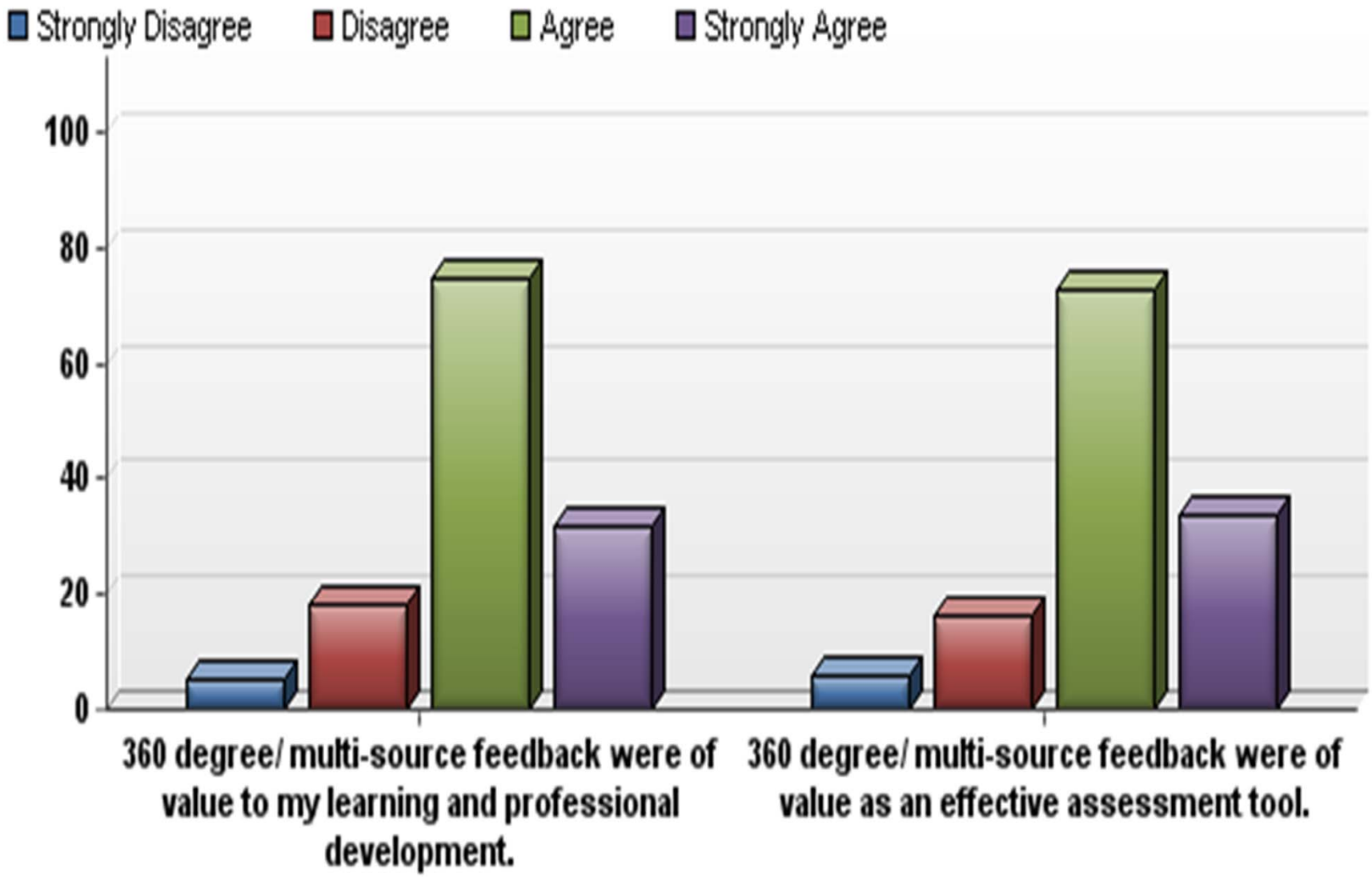
Value of Mini-CEX



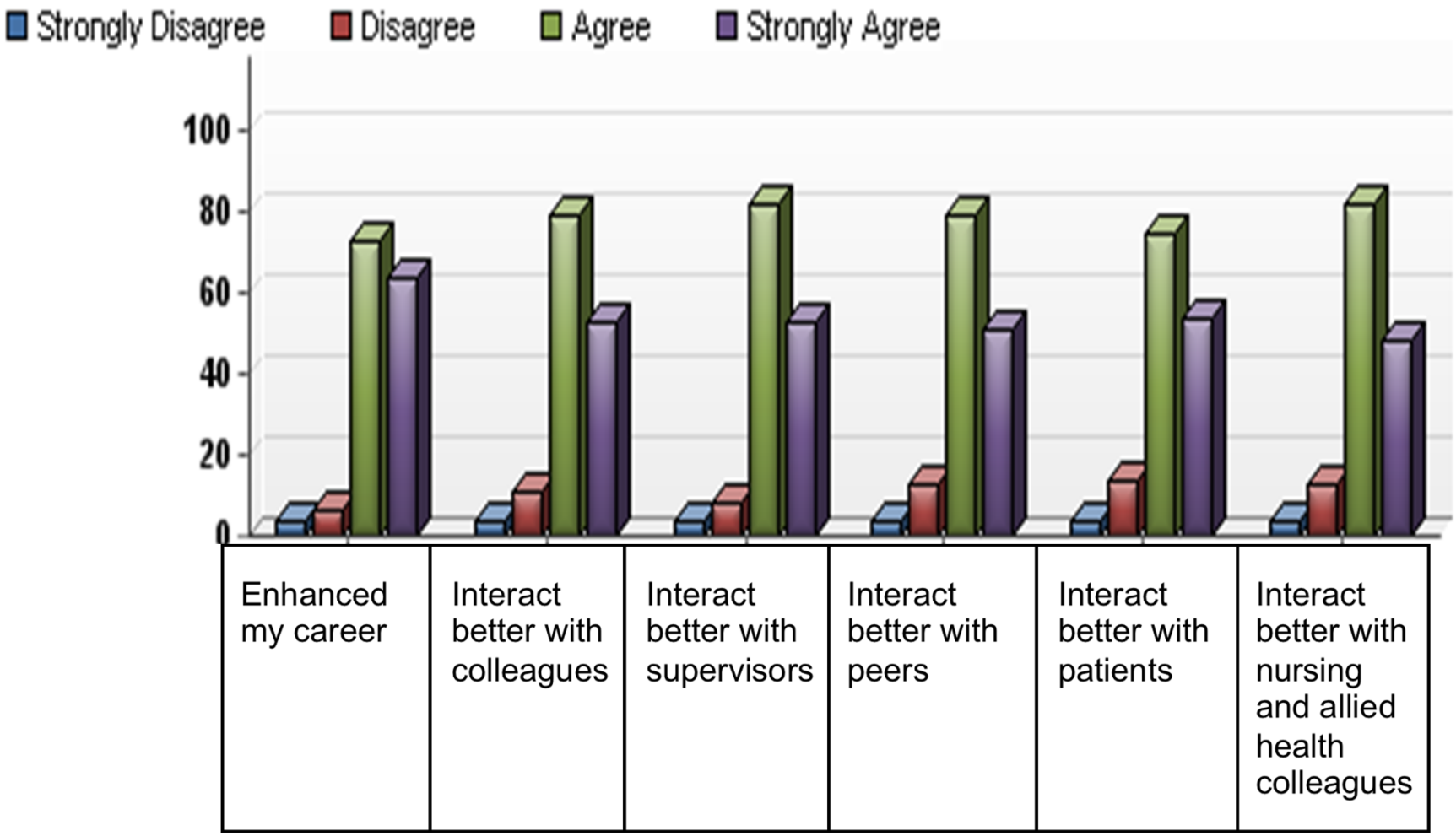
Value of CBDs



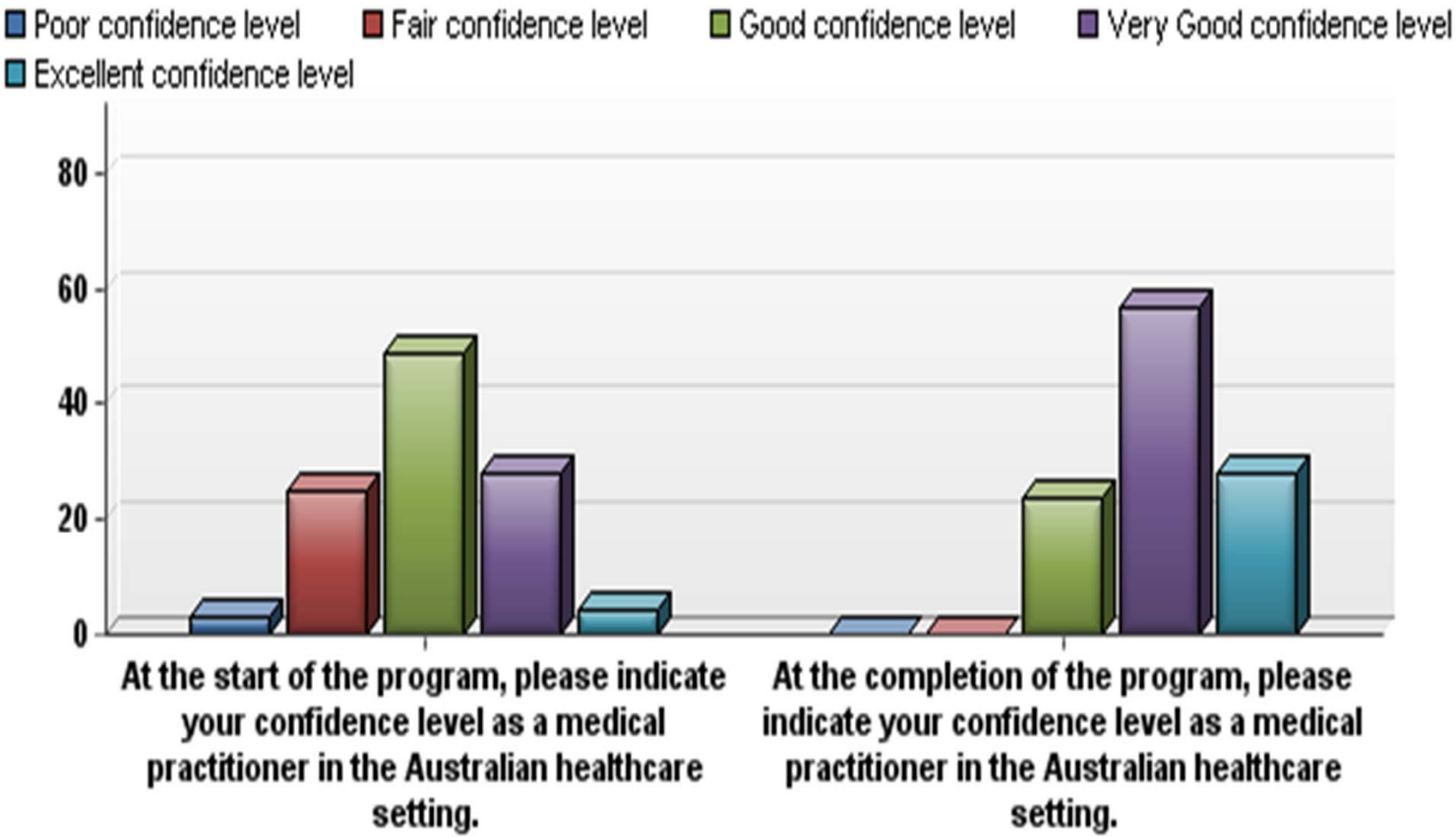
Value of MSFs



Effect on IMGs interpersonal skills



Effect on IMGs confidence level



Things IMGs most liked about the program

- Program design
- Program staff
- Reality based
- A learning program
- Feedback

Things IMGs would change

- Cost
- Length of program
- Assessments - DOPS
- Management - orientation
- Training of assessors
- Access to program