

Prosthetic Charities: Prosthetic Rehabilitation Professional's Opinions on their Function & Role



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow

The National Centre
for **PROSTHETICS** and **ORTHOTICS**

Mark Anthony Currie & Elaine Figgins

National Centre for Prosthetics and Orthotics Curran Building 131 ST JAMES' RD
University of Strathclyde G4 OLS mark.currie@strath.ac.uk e.figgins@strath.ac.uk

Introduction

Data from SPARG shows that amputations are at an all time high⁽¹⁾. In this time of austerity, funding from the NHS is being decreased. The Government see charities as being key in supporting and augmenting the NHS⁽²⁾ wherever possible.

There are many examples of charities working within the NHS to increase the level of care⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾. However, following an extensive literature search, there is no information on prosthetics charities working within the NHS. Another gap in the literature is the lack of clinicians opinions regarding these charities and how they work.

Aims

Qualitatively explore the opinions of prosthetic rehabilitation professionals on charities, and their possible role in the support of patients.

Methodology

- Ethical approval sought and granted by University of Strathclyde.
- Questionnaire and semi-structured interview were used to gain clinicians perceptions on charities possible role in the support of patients.
- 22 participants recruited (Fig 1) from 4 prosthetic centres across Scotland (Fig2).
- PORT-ER provided 'Raising the Bar' framework and funded travel to prosthetic centres.

Results



Figure 2. Prosthetic centres included in study⁽⁵⁾

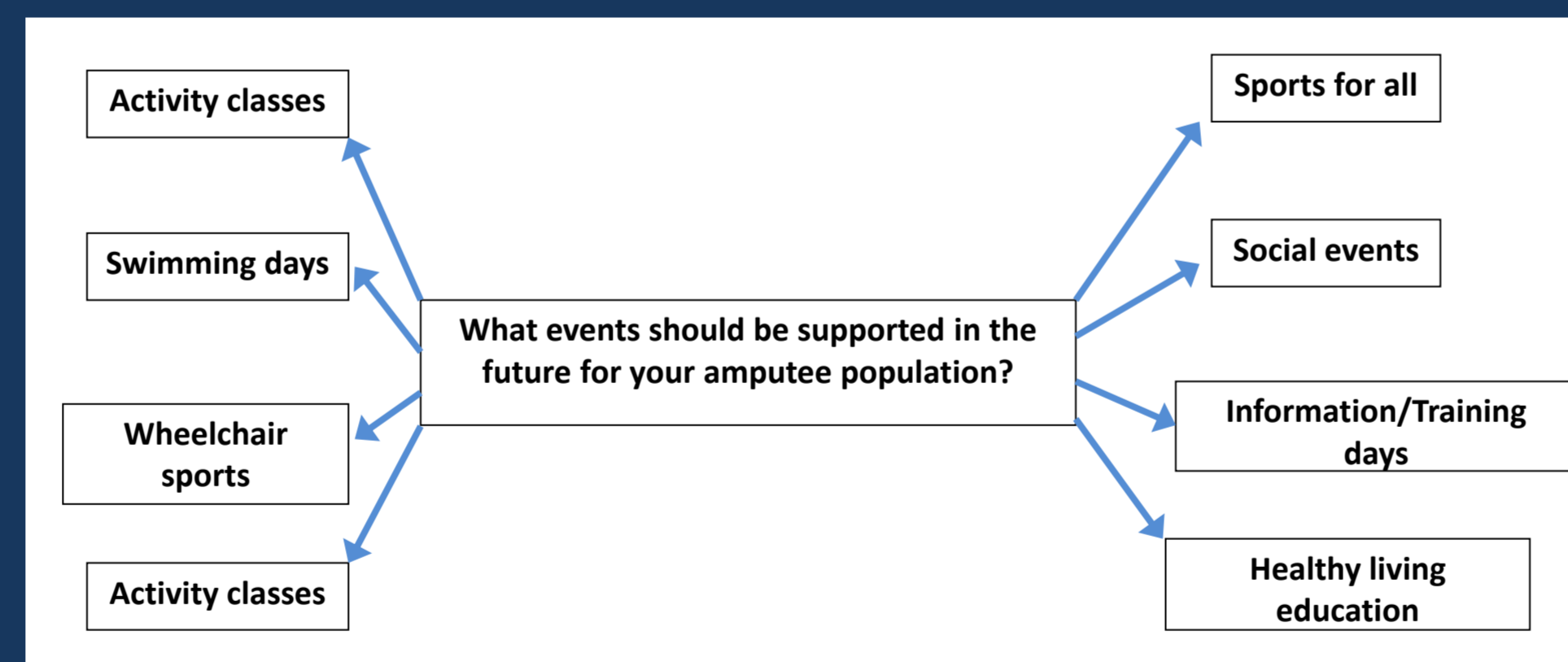


Figure 3. Themes of what events should be run

Discussion

- 95% said charity events were worthwhile.
- However, 28% said e.g.:
"... I do think the running master class sounds a bit elite" pt22
- 71% said sport should be widely available e.g.
"I think sport is suitable for all..." pt12
- Further events suggested by participants seen in Figure 3.
- 1/3 of participants had applied for charity funding.
- Only 41% were aware that grants were available from charities (Fig 4).
- 12 Clinicians would prefer direct contact to advertise grants e.g.
"...emailing prosthetic service managers and getting directly in contact..." pt12

Conclusions

- Charities want to be more involved however not happening effectively.
- Need for charity run events, but must be better tailored than current efforts.
- Majority of participants would consider future interactions with charities (Fig 5).
- Better self promotion & advertising from charities is needed.

References

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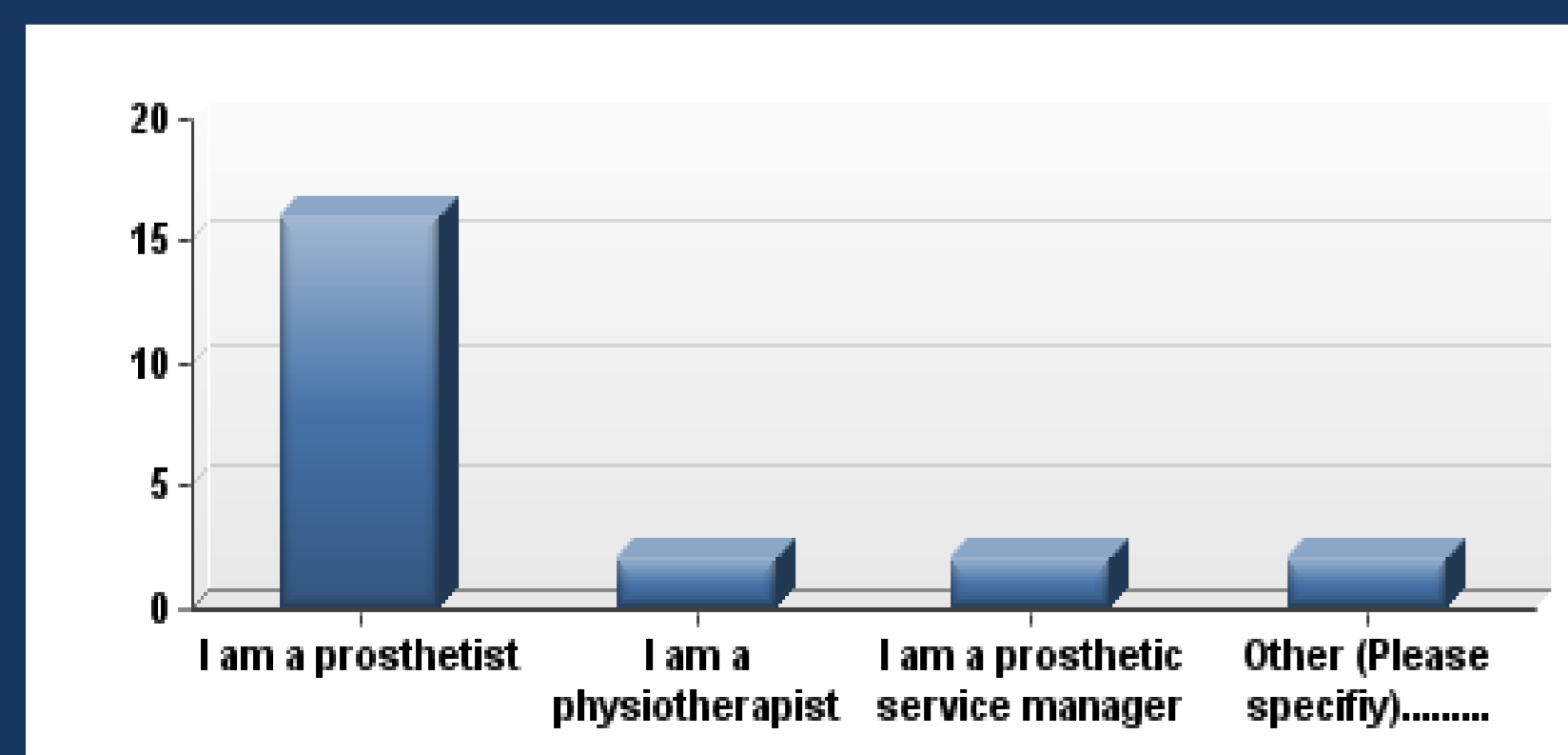


Figure 1. Professional split of participants

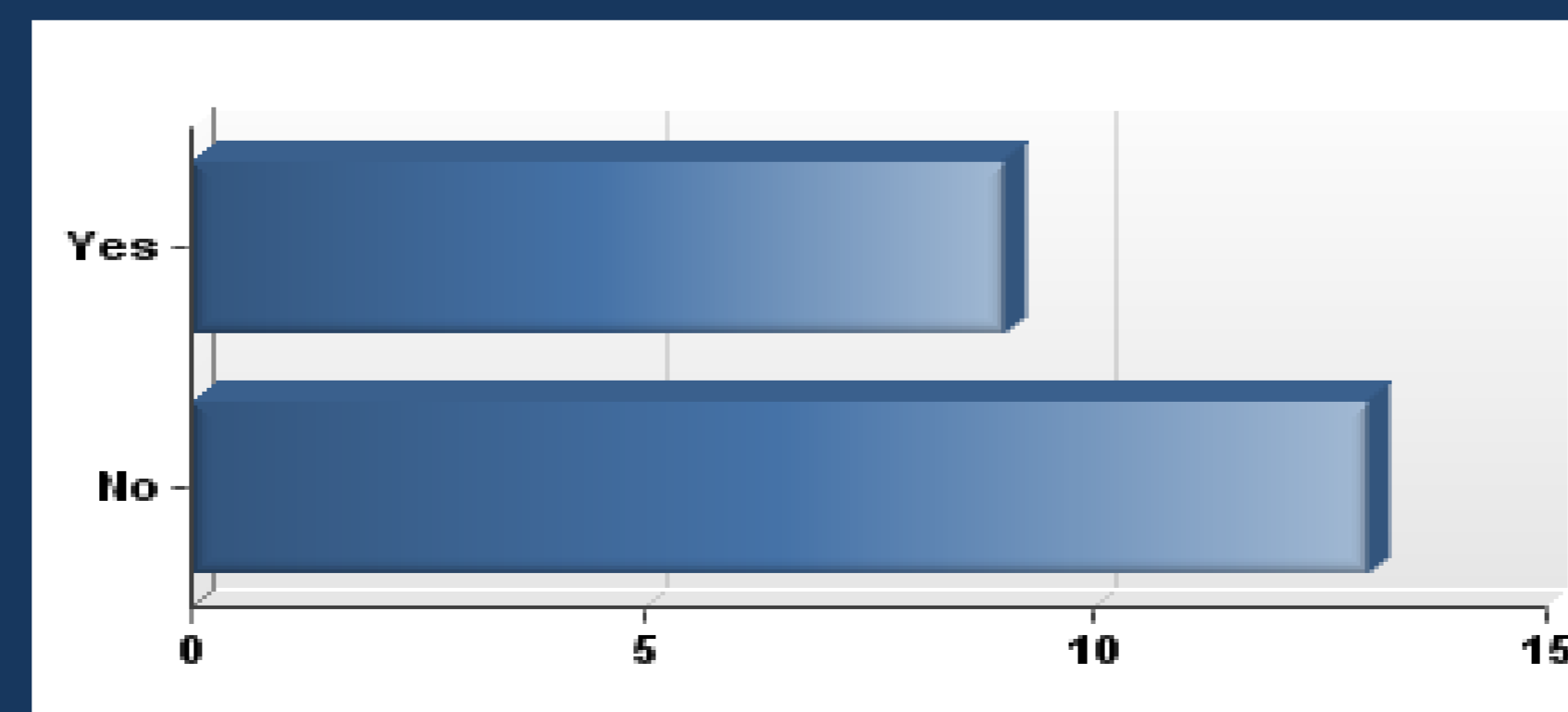


Figure 4. How many participants had heard of grants available from charities

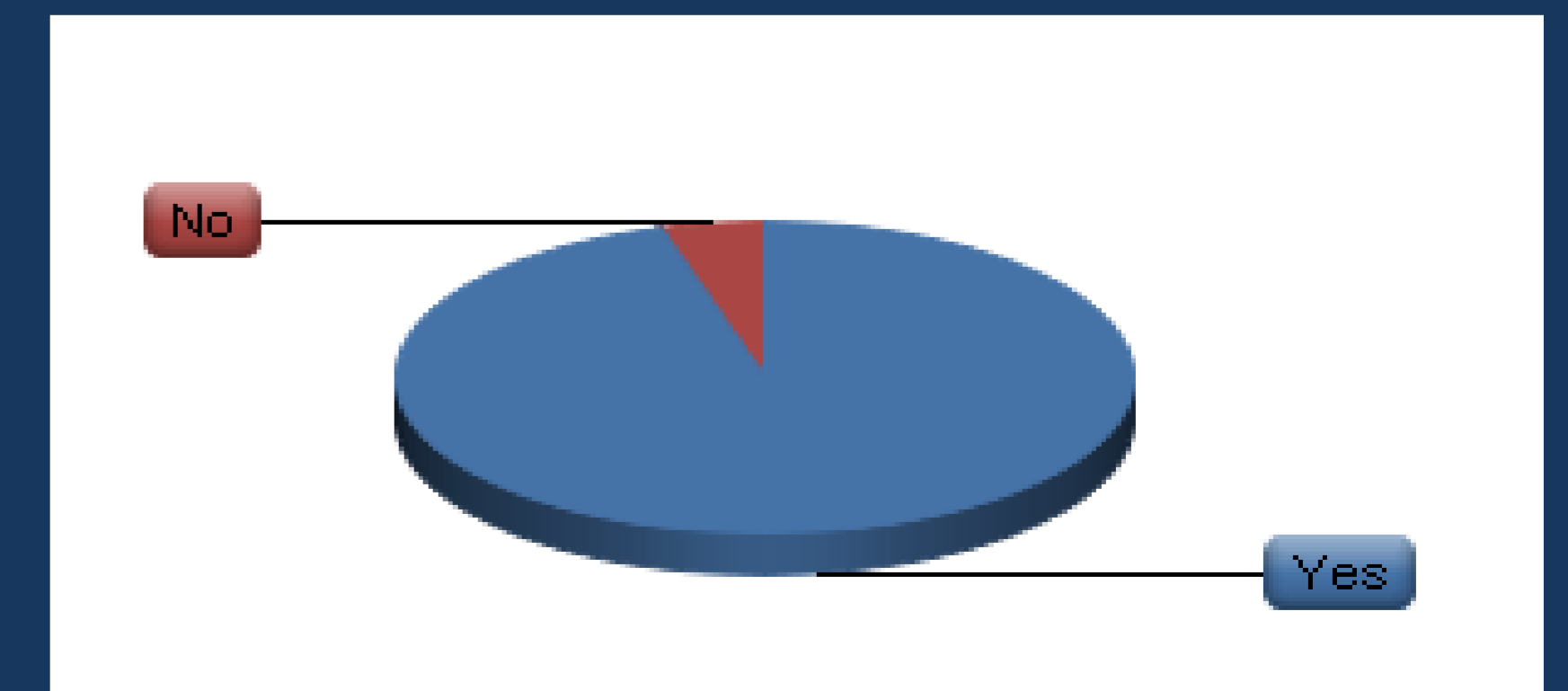


Figure 5. Would you consider future interactions with charities?