

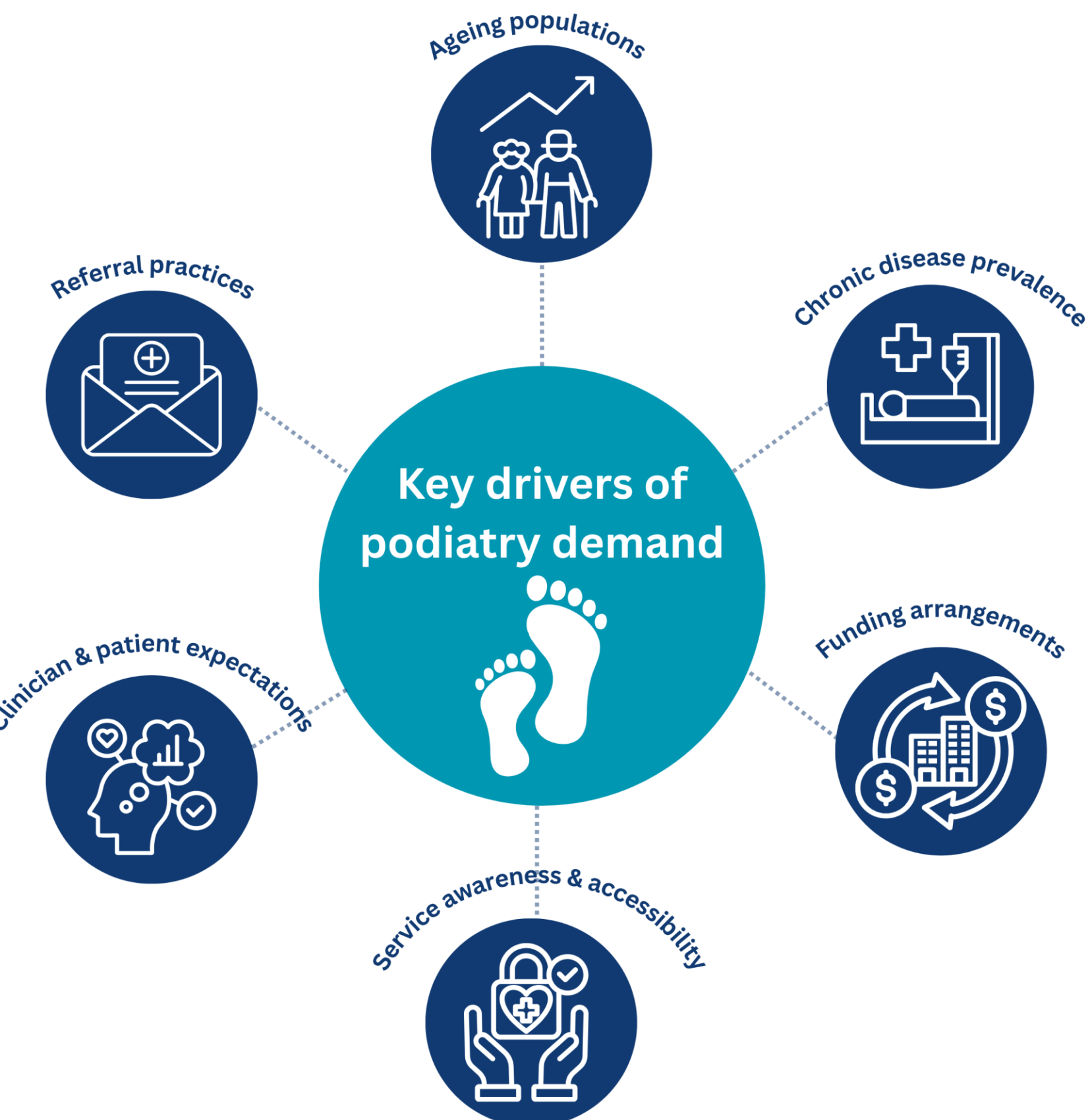
# Motivators and barriers for studying podiatry in Australia and New Zealand: a mixed methods study

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## INTRODUCTION

- Demand for podiatry services, relative to workforce size, is affecting sustainability and limiting the capacity to meet diverse clinical needs<sup>1-3</sup>
- Despite this growing demand, undergraduate podiatry enrolments have experienced an overall 17.3% decline since 2015<sup>1</sup>



**Primary aim:**  
To identify the motivators and barriers for studying podiatry among current students enrolled in podiatry programs across Australia and New Zealand

**Secondary aim:**  
To identify factors influencing students to study other relevant health, sport or science ('non-podiatry') programs across Australia and New Zealand

## METHODS

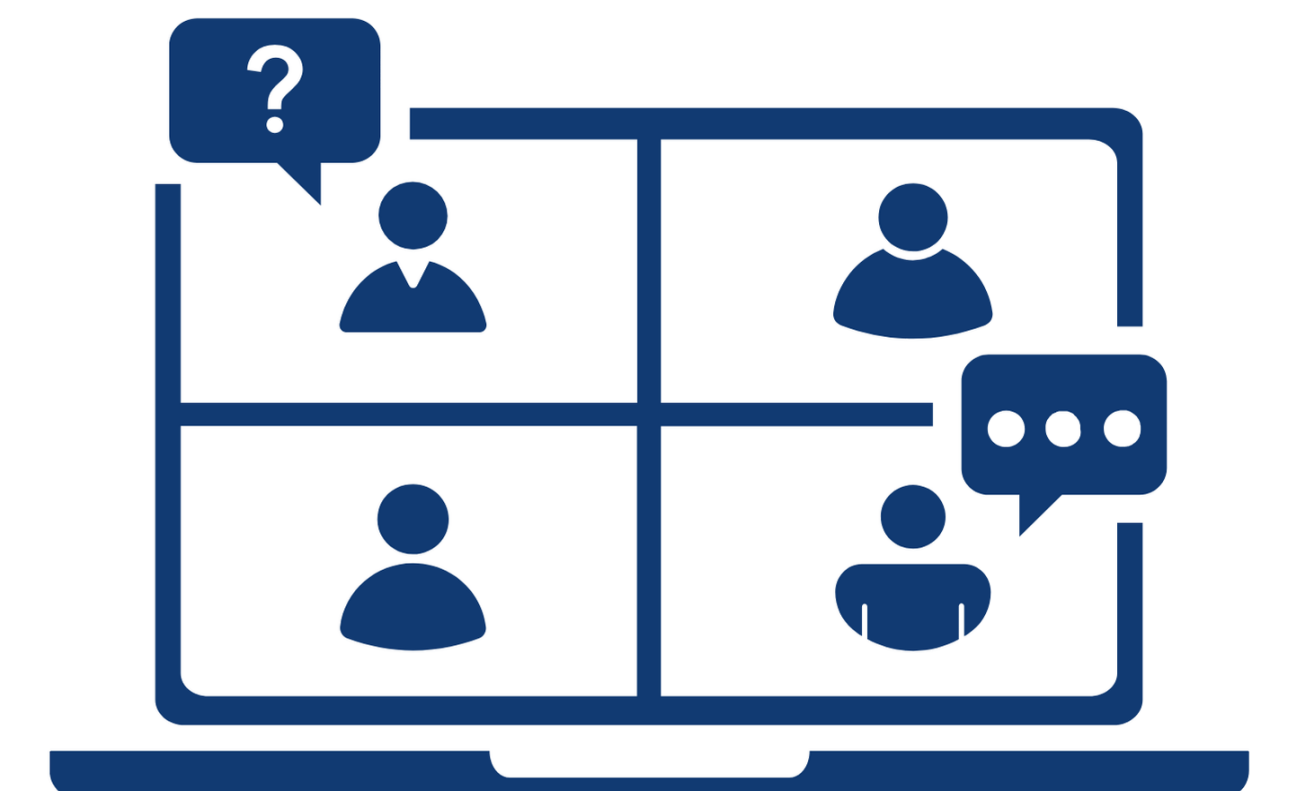
### Online survey



Podiatry students (Years 1-4)  
n = 278

Health, sport & science students (Years 1-4)  
n = 553

### Online workshops



Podiatry students (Year 1)  
n = 9

### STUDY CHARACTERISTICS

Design	Ethics	Quantitative analysis	Qualitative analysis
Convergent mixed methods	La Trobe University (HEC21057)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Descriptive statistics</li> <li>• Multivariate linear / logistic regression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inductive thematic analysis</li> <li>• Coding - 3 independent researchers using NVivo</li> </ul>

## RESULTS

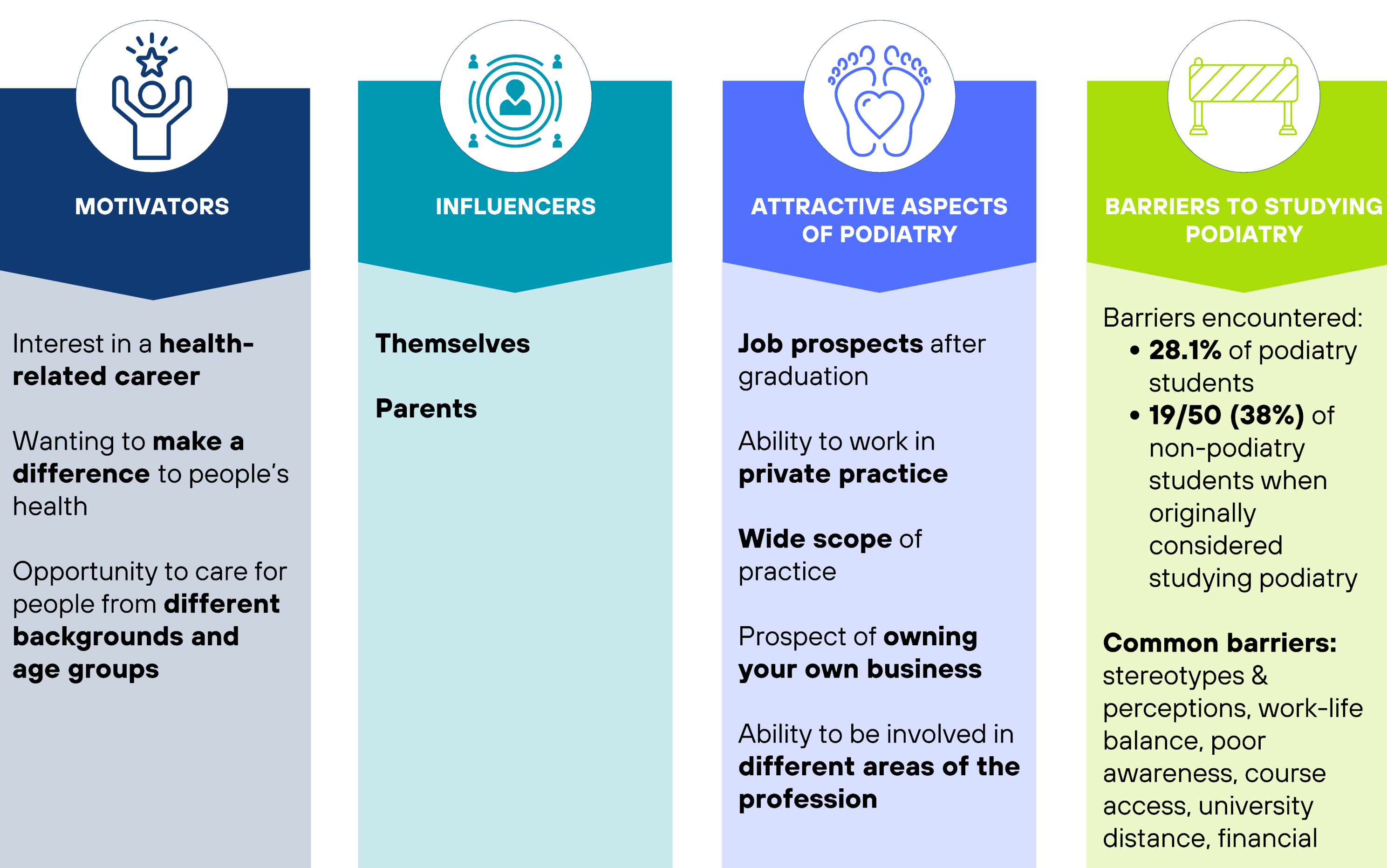


Figure 1 Thematic map of motivators and barriers for studying podiatry<sup>1</sup>

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- Three over-arching themes emerged as fundamental to understanding the motivators and barriers for studying podiatry<sup>1</sup> (Figure 1)
- There are a variety of factors that motivate, influence and attract students to studying podiatry, however, altruistic reasons are most highly rated<sup>1</sup>
- Scope of podiatry practice and career opportunities are not clear to people outside of the podiatry profession – findings similar to the UK<sup>2,3</sup>
- There are negative stereotypes and perceptions of the podiatry profession within the community
- Further work is required to reverse the negative stereotypes and perceptions of podiatry and build knowledge of the profession's scope of practice, career pathways, job prospects and earning potential<sup>1</sup>

## REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. J Foot Ankle Res. 2024 Sep;17(3):e70004.
2. J Foot Ankle Res. 2022 May 28;15(1):41.
3. J Foot Ankle Res. 2021 Apr 16;14(1):33.



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