

## Medical Board of Australia

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### Report on specialist medical colleges' Specialist pathway data

Reporting period: 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024



**Medical Board  
Ahpra**

# Contents

## PART A: SUMMARY

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
Reporting requirements	4
Performance benchmarks	5
Compliance measures	6
List of college abbreviations	7
How to interpret the data	7
<b>Key points in the 2024 report</b>	<b>8</b>

## PART B: GUIDELINES

*Graphs have not been produced where there is no data.*

*The numbers of the graphs align with previous reports to enable comparisons.*

<b>1 Applications</b>	
1.1 Number of applications received	15
1.3 Number of applications withdrawn by SIMGs	16
<b>2 Specialist recognition outcomes</b>	
2.1 Outcome of interim assessment	17
2.2 Outcome of final assessment	18
2.2.1 Outcome of final assessment: By country of highest specialist qualification – all colleges	19
2.4 Number of reviews/reconsiderations and appeals of college decision requested by SIMGs	20
<b>4 Specialist recognition requirements</b>	
4.1 Substantially comparable SIMGs	
4.1.3 Time for final assessment	21
4.1.4 Maximum timeframe for completing college requirements	22
4.1.5 Total time on specialist pathway	23
4.2 Partially comparable SIMGs	
4.2.2 Time for final assessment	24
4.2.3 Maximum timeframe for completing college requirements	25
4.2.4 Total time on specialist pathway	26
4.3 Final assessment decision	
4.3.1 Time for specialist recognition final assessment decision	27

## PART C: STANDARDS

<b>1 Applications</b>	
1.1 Number of applications received	29
1.2 Number of applications incomplete on first submission	30
1.3 Number of applications withdrawn by SIMGs	31
<b>2 Specialist recognition outcomes</b>	
2.1 Outcome of interim assessment (as numbers)	32
2.1 Outcome of interim assessment (as %)	33

2.1.1	Outcome of interim assessment: By country of highest specialist qualification – all colleges	34
2.2	Outcome of final assessment	35
2.2.1	Outcome of final assessment: By country of highest specialist qualification – all colleges	36
2.4	Number of reviews/reconsiderations and appeals of college decision requested by SIMGs	37
2.5	Total number of SIMGs on specialist pathway: Good practice guidelines and Standards	38
	<i>Note: Some colleges' 2023 data for total number of SIMGs was subsequently found to be incorrect.</i>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Specialist recognition timeframes</b>	
3.1	Interim assessment - Summary of Preliminary Review (SPR) before interview	
3.1.1	Time for SPR to applicant	39
3.1.2	Time for applicant response	40
3.1.3	Time to first available interview	41
3.1.4	Time from interview to decision	42
3.2	Interim assessment - Summary of Preliminary Review (SPR) after interview	
3.2.1	Time to first available interview	43
3.2.2	Time for SPR to applicant	44
3.2.3	Time for applicant response	45
3.2.4	Time from applicant response to decision	46
3.3	Total time for interim assessment	47
<b>4</b>	<b>Specialist recognition requirements</b>	
4.1	Substantially comparable SIMGs	
4.1.1	Period of supervised practice required by college	48
4.1.2	Number required to complete exam	49
4.1.3	Time for final assessment	50
4.1.4	Maximum timeframe for completing college requirements	51
4.1.5	Total time on specialist pathway	52
4.2	Partially comparable SIMGs	
4.2.1	Period of supervised practice and/or training required by college	53
4.2.2	Time for final assessment	54
4.2.3	Maximum timeframe for completing college requirements	55
4.2.4	Total time on specialist pathway	56
4.3	Final assessment decision: Time for specialist recognition final assessment decision	57
<b>5</b>	<b>Area of need outcomes and timeframes</b>	
5.1	Outcome of assessment	58
5.2	Time for assessment	59
<b>6</b>	<b>SIMG country of qualifications</b>	
6.1	Primary medical degree and specialist qualification - all colleges (data)	60
6.2	Primary medical degree and specialist qualification - all colleges (graph)	61

# PART A: SUMMARY

## Introduction

The specialist pathway is for specialist international medical graduates (SIMGs) who are overseas-trained specialists seeking specialist registration in Australia (specialist recognition) or who are applying for an area of need specialist level position in Australia.

The Medical Board of Australia’s (the Board) *Standards: Specialist medical college assessment of specialist international medical graduates* aim to support specialist medical colleges in their role of assessing specialist SIMGs. The Standards came into effect on 1 January 2021 and all SIMGs who applied for the specialist pathway from this date are assessed against the Standards. The Standards replace the previous *Good practice guidelines for the specialist international medical graduate assessment process*. The guidelines were in effect from 2 November 2015 to 31 December 2020.

In comparing the previous Good practice guidelines and the current Standards, the main differences are:

- the introduction of the Summary of Preliminary Review (SPR) which is a summary of the college’s assessment of the SIMG’s comparability against the college’s criteria. It is provided to the SIMG, and the SIMG has an opportunity to respond to ensure the college has all their relevant information for assessment, before the interim assessment decision is made. Colleges can choose to complete the SPR before or after the interview
- a minimum period of supervised practice for all SIMGs who are partially or substantially comparable.

More information about the Specialist pathway is on the Board’s [Specialist pathway page](#). The Standards are available on the Board’s [Standards and reports page](#).

## Reporting requirements

Reporting is annual by calendar year. This report covers the period 1 January – 31 December 2024. Previous reports are available on the [Standards and reports page](#).

All colleges report against the same metrics. The data requested for 2024 includes data about SIMGs who applied for college assessment under the Guidelines (pre-2021) or the Standards (from 2021). These data are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>number and type of applications received in 2024<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>application for specialist recognition</li><li>application for area of need</li><li>combined application (specialist recognition and area of need)</li></ul></li><li>applicant’s (SIMG) country of training (for applications received in 2024)</li><li>number of applications received which were incomplete on first submission</li><li>number of applications withdrawn by the applicant (SIMG)</li><li>outcome of college’s interim comparability assessment<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>not comparable</li><li>partially comparable</li><li>substantially comparable</li></ul></li><li>outcome of college’s area of need assessment<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>suitable for the area of need position</li><li>not suitable for the area of need position</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>outcome of final assessment for specialist recognition<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>recommended for specialist recognition</li><li>not recommended for specialist recognition</li></ul></li><li>number of fellowships awarded to SIMGs on the specialist pathway</li><li>time from interim assessment to final assessment (from the date of decision of interim assessment, to the date the decision of final assessment is made by college)</li><li>for those SIMGs applying under the Standards, times for the SPR</li><li>total time on the specialist pathway (from the date that a complete application is received, to the date of final assessment decision (i.e. recommended/not recommended for specialist recognition)). This metric was introduced in 2020.</li><li>total number of SIMGs on the specialist pathway (metric introduced in 2022)</li><li>number of appeals of college decision by SIMGs.</li></ul>
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## Performance benchmarks

Since 2016, colleges also report against a number of performance benchmarks.

The benchmarks for the *Guidelines* (applications received pre-2021) are:

Metric	Benchmark
<b>Time to first available interview for interim assessment</b> <i>From the date a complete application is received to the date of first available interview that is offered.</i>	Interview available within three months
<b>Time from interview to interim assessment decision</b> <i>From the date the SIMG attends interview to the date the decision of interim assessment is made by college.</i>	Interim assessment completed within 14 days after interview
<b>Time for specialist recognition interim assessment</b> <i>From the date a complete application is received to the date the decision of interim assessment is made by college.</i>	Interim assessment completed within three months and 14 days
<b>Time for area of need assessment</b> <i>From the date a complete application is received to the date the decision of suitability for area of need position is made by college. Excludes combined assessments.</i>	Area of need assessment completed within two months
<b>Time for specialist recognition final assessment decision</b> <i>From the date the SIMG notifies the college that they have completed the requirements to the date the decision of final assessment is made by college.</i>	Decision on final assessment completed within two months

The benchmarks for the *Standards* (applications received from 2021) are:

Metric	Benchmark
<b>Summary of Preliminary Review before the interview</b>	
<b>Time for SPR to SIMG</b> <i>From the date a complete application has been assessed by the college to date SPR is sent to applicant.</i>	SPR sent to applicant within 21 days
<b>Time to first available interview for interim assessment</b> <i>From the date a complete application is received to the date of first available interview that is offered.</i>	Interview available within four months
<b>Time from interview to interim assessment decision</b> <i>From the date the SIMG attends interview to the date the decision of interim assessment is made by college.</i>	Interim assessment completed within 14 days after interview
<b>Summary of Preliminary Review after the interview</b>	
<b>Time to first available interview for interim assessment</b> <i>From the date a complete application is received to the date of first available interview that is offered.</i>	Interview available within three months
<b>Time for SPR to SIMG</b> <i>From date of interview to the date a SPR is sent to applicant.</i>	SPR sent to applicant within 21 days after interview

<b>Time from SIMG response to interim assessment decision</b> <i>From the date the college receives a SPR response from applicant to the date the decision of interim assessment is made by college.</i>	Interim assessment completed within 14 days after receipt of SIMG response
<b>Time for specialist recognition interim assessment</b> <i>From the date a complete application is received to the date the decision of interim assessment is made by college.</i>	Interim assessment completed within four months and 14 days
<b>Time for area of need assessment</b> <i>From the date a complete application is received to the date the decision of suitability for area of need position is made by college. Excludes combined assessments.</i>	Area of need assessment completed within two months
<b>Time for specialist recognition final assessment decision</b> <i>From the date the SIMG notifies the college that they have completed the requirements to the date the decision of final assessment is made by college.</i>	Decision on final assessment completed within two months

## Compliance measures

Colleges also reported against a set of compliance measures to confirm compliance with the *Good practice guidelines* or *Standards*.

The compliance measures for the *Guidelines* (applications received pre-2021) are:

Metric	Compliance measure
Period of practice required by the college for substantially comparable SIMGs	Up to 12 months FTE peer review
Period of practice required by the college for partially comparable SIMGs	Up to 24 months FTE supervised practice
Requirement for substantially comparable SIMGs to complete an examination	Only partially comparable SIMGs may be required to complete an examination
Maximum timeframes for completing college requirements for substantially comparable SIMGs	Up to two years to complete up to 12 months FTE peer review
Maximum timeframes for completing college requirements for partially comparable SIMGs	Up to four years to complete 24 months FTE supervised practice

The compliance measures for the *Standards* (applications received from 2021) are:

Metric	Compliance measure	Note
Period of practice required by the college for substantially comparable SIMGs	3 - 12 months FTE supervised practice	Revised
Period of practice required by the college for partially comparable SIMGs	6 - 24 months FTE supervised practice	Revised
Requirement for substantially comparable SIMGs to complete an examination	Only partially comparable SIMGs may be required to complete an examination	No change
Maximum timeframes for completing college requirements for substantially comparable SIMGs	Up to two years to complete up to 12 months FTE supervised practice	No change
Maximum timeframes for completing college requirements for partially comparable SIMGs	Up to four years to complete 24 months FTE supervised practice	No change

**List of college abbreviations**

ACD	Australasian College of Dermatologists
ACEM	Australasian College for Emergency Medicine
ACSEP	Australasian College of Sport and Exercise Physicians
ANZCA	Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
ACRRM	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
CICM	College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand
RACDS	Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons
RACS	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
RACGP	The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
RACMA	The Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators
RACP	The Royal Australasian College of Physicians
RANZCP	The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
RANZCOG	The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
RANZCO	The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
RANZCR	The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists
RCPA	The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia

**How to interpret the data**

The specialist college data report is a report of all college 'activities' during the period and reflects point in time reporting as most SIMGs are unlikely to complete all the processes within one reporting period. Therefore, denominators are unable to be defined and percentages cannot be calculated. A college may have more assessment outcomes than applications received for the period.

Delays can occur during the assessment process which are outside the control of the college, for example, an SIMG may choose to defer their interview.

Nevertheless, the data provides insights into some college processes, particularly the initial and final assessments and compliance with definitions of substantially and partially comparability.

The data have been collated and summarised in graphs and tables. The report is in two parts. SIMGs are assessed against the requirements that were in place at the time of their application for comparability. The number of SIMGs reported against the Guidelines will decrease each year as this cohort of SIMGs finish the specialist pathway. Ongoing reporting of SIMGs will be against the Standards.

- Part B is SIMGs who applied in 2020 or before who completed the pathway in 2024. These data are reported against the Guidelines.
- Part C is SIMGs who applied since 2021 and were assessed in 2024 or who completed the pathway in 2024. These data are reported against the Standards.

Data are reported as provided by the colleges. Graphs have not been produced where there is no data. The numbers of the graphs align with previous reports to enable comparisons. Source data are not checked by Ahpra.

## Key points in the 2024 report

### Key points in the data from the Guidelines (applications received pre-2021)

- All SIMGs who applied for the Specialist pathway pre-2021 have received their interim assessment. No colleges did any interim assessments in 2024. The last interim assessments for this cohort were in 2023.
- 96 SIMGs finished the pathway in 2024. There are 226 SIMGs from this cohort still on this pathway.
- Most SIMGs (both substantially and partially comparable) finishing the pathway in 2024 met the requirements to be recommended for specialist recognition. (Guidelines graph 2.2)

### Performance benchmark key points

- In the case of applications made before 2021, all colleges except RACS issued all their SIMGs with the outcome of their specialist recognition final assessment (recommended or not recommended for specialist recognition) within two months of completing their requirements. (Guidelines graph 4.3.1)

### Commentary

After an SIMG has completed their college mandated requirements, other than three RACS applicants, all others received their final assessment in a timely way.

### Total time on the pathway

A metric introduced in 2020 reports the total time that each SIMG was on the specialist pathway, from (complete) application to recommendation for specialist recognition.

Time on the pathway can be influenced by many factors. Some relate to college processes, such as a prolonged interim assessment. Others relate to factors related to the applicant such as the SIMG postponing their assessment interview, the SIMG having difficulty securing a position and SIMG performance issues including failing exams.

Note, as this time is taken from 'complete application', it is possible for a SIMG who applied in 2020 or earlier and finished in 2024, to have a total time of less than four years.

Substantially comparable SIMGs must complete between three to 12 months of supervised practice. Of the SIMGs who finished the pathway in 2024, the total time on the pathway ranged from 'three to four years' to 'more than eight years'. 36 per cent were on the pathway for between three to four years, 48 per cent taking four to six years, 12 per cent taking six to eight years. One substantially comparable IMG was on the pathway for more than eight years (with a break).

Partially comparable SIMGs must complete between six months to two years of supervised practice. Of the SIMGs who finished the pathway in 2024, the total time on the pathway ranged from 'two to three years' to 'more than eight years'. 35 per cent were on the pathway for less than four years, 51 per cent taking four to six years and 13 per cent taking six to eight years. One IMG was on the pathway for more than eight years.



## Key points in the data from the Standards (applications received from 2021)

### Data key points

The colleges with the highest number of applications in the twelve-month period, in order were: (Standards graph 1.1)

1. RACGP (595 applications)
2. RACP (306 applications)
3. RANZCR (162 applications)
4. RANZCP (123 applications).

The colleges with the lowest number of applications in the twelve-month period were: (Standards graph 1.1)

1. RACDS (no applications)
2. RACMA (one application)
3. ACSEP (two applications).

SIMGs have gained their specialist qualifications in a range of countries with the highest numbers of applications from the United Kingdom followed by India, Sri Lanka and Iran. (Standards table 6.1 and graph 6.2)

The data includes the number of applications incomplete at first submission. Some colleges require documents from a third party for an application to be declared complete, such as a referee report. The 'number of incomplete applications' metric can be an indicator of issues that add to the total time for the SIMG to complete requirements for specialist recognition. The data should alert colleges to opportunities to improve their application forms and processes if, for example, they have low numbers of complete applications. (Standards graph 1.2)

The data includes the number of SIMGs who withdrew from the specialist pathway. A review by colleges about the reasons for the applicants withdrawing could provide useful information that could improve assessment processes. The reasons for withdrawals are not collected by the Board. (Standards graph 1.3)

There is significant variation between specialist colleges in the proportion of SIMGs assessed as substantially or partially comparable. For example: (Standards graph 2.1)

- ACRRM applicants – 100 per cent of applicants were assessed as substantially comparable
- RACP applicants – 60 per cent were assessed as substantially comparable
- RACGP applicants – 37 per cent of applicants were assessed as substantially comparable
- CICM applicants – no SIMGs were assessed as substantially comparable, 87 per cent were assessed as partially comparable
- RANZCR applicants – one SIMG was assessed as substantially comparable, while 97 per cent were assessed as partially comparable
- RCPA applicants – three SIMGs were assessed as substantially comparable, while 82 per cent were assessed as partially comparable
- ACD assessed one SIMG as substantially comparable, while 58 per cent were assessed as partially comparable.

Across all colleges, the proportion of SIMGs assessed as substantially, partially or not comparable varies across countries. Looking at countries with more than 40 applicants: (Standards table 2.1.1)

- Two per cent of applicants from UK were assessed as not comparable, 50 per cent were assessed as partially comparable and 47 per cent were assessed as substantially comparable (total 686)
- 18 per cent of applicants from India were assessed as not comparable, 60 per cent were assessed as partially comparable and 22 per cent were assessed as substantially comparable (total 165)

- Six per cent of applicants from Sri Lanka were assessed as not comparable, 37 per cent were partially comparable and 56 per cent were substantially comparable (total 80)
- 20 per cent of applicants from Iran were assessed as not comparable, 37 percent were assessed as partially comparable and 43 per cent were assessed as substantially comparable (total 68)
- Eight per cent of applicants from South Africa were assessed as not comparable, 61 per cent were assessed as partially comparable and 30 per cent were assessed as substantially comparable (total 60)
- Seven per cent of applicants from the Philippines were assessed as not comparable, 93 per cent were assessed as partially comparable and no SIMGs were assessed as substantially comparable (total 41).

The majority (93 per cent) of applicants for the specialist pathway - area of need, were found suitable for the position. (Standards graph 5.1)

Almost all SIMGs who completed the pathway in 2024 under the Standards (applied after 1 January 2021) (99 per cent) met the requirements to be recommended for specialist recognition. (Standards graph 2.2)

A small number of SIMGs relative to the number of applications, seek a review or appeal their assessment decisions. The majority of requests for review/reconsideration and appeals relate to the interim assessment of comparability (i.e. SIMG appealing assessment outcome 'not comparable' or 'partially comparable'). Not all reviews/appeals occur in the same calendar year as the interim assessment (number of applications are provided as an indicator of volume).

In relation to reviews/reconsiderations and appeals in 2024: (Standards graph 2.4)

- RACS had the most reviews/appeals relative to applicant numbers (38 review/appeals when they had 106 applicants in 2024)
- RANZCOG had 22 reviews/appeals (and 65 applicants in 2024)
- ANZCA had 23 reviews/appeals (and 117 applicants in 2024).

A new metric was added in 2022 - the total number of SIMGs on the specialist pathway. It includes all SIMGs who have had their interim assessment, were deemed partially or substantially comparable and are (or can start) completing the requirements for specialist recognition. This provides a useful snapshot of the number of SIMG applicants in the system. In 2024, there were 2711 SIMGs on the specialist pathway, significantly up from 1809 SIMGs in 2023, (under the Guidelines and Standards) with the majority in the pathway in the following colleges: (Standards graph 2.5) *Note, some colleges discovered errors in previous years' reporting when reporting 2024 numbers.*

- RACGP – 925
- RACP – 511
- RANZCR – 321
- RANZCP – 298
- ANZCA – 186.

## Performance benchmark key points

### Summary of preliminary review

- The SPR was introduced in 2021. While it supports procedural fairness for SIMGs, it does add to assessment timeframes.
- The Standards allow the SPR to be done either before or after the interview for interim assessment. The College can decide what works best for them. Most colleges do the SPR before the interview.

RCPA reported SPR before or after the interview.

Across all colleges who did a SPR *before* the interview (ACD, ACEM, ACRRM, ACSEP, ANZCA, CICM, RACGP, RACS, RANZCOG, RANZCP, RCPA):

- 94 per cent of SIMGs received their SPR within the 21-day benchmark (Standards graph 3.1.1) however:

- RACS - 18 SIMGs waited 22 – 42 days for their SPR and 12 SIMGs waited more than 43 days (out of 115 SIMGs)
- RACGP did not meet the benchmark for 33 of its 623 SIMGs
- RANZCP did not meet the benchmark for two of its 118 SIMGs
- ANZCA did not meet the benchmark for two of its 111 SIMGs.

All other colleges that did the SPR before the interview met the benchmark.

- 78 per cent of SIMGs were offered an interview within the benchmark timeframe (four months from submission of a complete application). Of those that did not meet the benchmark: (Standards graph 3.1.3)
  - ACD failed to meet the benchmark in all its 18 applications, with SIMGs waiting more than six months for an interview
  - RANZCOG failed to meet the benchmark in 24 out of 52 applications, with seven SIMGs waiting more than six months
  - RACS failed to meet the benchmark in 51 out of 90 applications, with 16 SIMGs waiting more than six months
  - ANZCA failed to meet the benchmark in two of the 105 applications
  - RANZCP failed to meet the benchmark in two out of 118 applications
  - ACEM failed to meet the benchmark for one SIMG out of 39 applications.

ACRRM and CICM both met the interview benchmark for their SIMG applications.

- The time for applicant response is also reported as this demonstrates if there are extended timeframes which were contributed to by the SIMG. However, only 41 of the total 1139 SIMGs took longer than 21 days to respond. 75 SIMGs did not provide a response to the SPR. (Standards graph 3.1.2).

Across the five colleges who did a SPR *after* the interview (RACMA, RACP, RANZCO, RANZCR and RCPA):

- two colleges met the benchmark timeframe for offering an interview for all their SIMGs (SIMG is offered an interview within three months from submission of a complete application) (Standards graph 3.2.1)
  - RANZCR met the benchmark for all 94 applications
  - RACMA met the benchmark for its one application.
- three colleges did not meet the benchmark timeframe for offering an interview
  - RCPA failed to meet the benchmark in 26 out of 33 applications with nineteen SIMGs waiting more than six months for an interview
  - RANZCO failed to meet the benchmark for two out of 18 applications
  - RACP only failed to meet the benchmark once for its 148 applications.
- 98 per cent of SIMGs received their SPR within the 21-day benchmark after the interview (Standards graph 3.2.2)
  - RANZCR and RCPA met the benchmark for all their applications
  - RACP met this requirement for 207 out of 212 applications
  - RANZCO met this requirement for 17 out of 20 applications.
- The benchmark for interim assessment after applicant response to the SPR is 14 days (Standards graph 3.2.4)

- RANZCR met the benchmark for all its 94 applications
- RCPA met the benchmark for 25 out of 33 applications
- RACP failed to meet the benchmark in 212 out of 242 applications
- RANZCO failed to meet the benchmark in eight out of 14 applications.
- The time for applicant response to the SPR is also reported as this demonstrates if extended timeframes were contributed to by the SIMG. Only 25 of the 357 SIMGs did not respond within 21 days. The RACMA SIMG was provided an SPR but was not advised they could respond. RANZCO reported that two SIMGs did not want an SPR (the Standards assume all SIMGs receive an SPR). (Standards graph 3.2.3)

The time for interim assessment was within the benchmark timeframe for 84 per cent of SIMGs (four months and 14 days). For those outside the benchmark, it may have been because the SIMG chose to delay the interview, because there are limited numbers of interview spots available or there were delays due to college internal processes before or after the interview. (Standards graph 3.3)

Of the three colleges (ACD, ACRRM, RANZCR) who assessed area of need only applications (excluding combined assessments), only three SIMGs out of 17 received their area of need assessment within the benchmark (two months). (Standards graph 5.2)

Across all colleges, all but four SIMGs from RACS received the outcome of their final assessment (recommended or not recommended for specialist recognition) within two months of completing their requirements. (Standards graph 4.3)

### Compliance key points

All colleges met the compliance measure for the period of supervised practice required for substantially comparable SIMGs (3 – 12 months). (Standards graph 4.1.1)

All colleges met the compliance measure for the period of supervised practice or training required for partially comparable SIMGs (6 – 24 months). (Standards graph 4.2.1)

All SIMGs who completed the specialist pathway process in 2024 under the new *Standards* completed it within the maximum timeframes set by the Board.

### Total time on the pathway

A metric introduced in 2020 reports the total time that each SIMG was on the specialist pathway, from application to recommendation for specialist recognition.

Time on the pathway is the result of many factors. Some relate to college processes, such as a prolonged interim assessment. Others relate to factors controlled by the applicant such as the SIMG postponing their assessment interview, the SIMG having difficulty securing a position and SIMG performance issues including failing exams.

The Standards have now been in place for four years and the total time on the pathway under the Standards is starting to provide useful insights into SIMG timeframes.

Substantially comparable SIMGs must complete between three to 12 months of supervised practice. Of the SIMGs who finished the pathway in 2024, the total time on the pathway ranged from 'less than one year' to 'three to four years'. 13 percent finished in less than a year, 63 per cent were on the pathway for one to two years, 23 per cent were on for two to three years. Three substantially comparable SIMGs were on the pathway for three to four years.

Partially comparable SIMGs must complete between six months to two years of supervised practice. Of the SIMGs who finished the pathway in 2024, the total time on the pathway ranged from 'less than one year' to 'three to four years'. One partially comparable SIMG was on the pathway for less than a year. 28 per cent were on it for one to two years, 49 per cent were on it for two to three years and 22 per cent were on it for three to four years.

### Conclusions

The SIMG assessment process is relatively complex because it relies on college processes and applicant engagement and participation. Delays can be the result of either or both factors.

From the data, it is evident that time frames for the initial assessment process are variable. The offer of interview might be an area of focus for some colleges. The introduction of the SPR, while supporting procedural fairness, has added significantly to time frames and may need to be reviewed.

There is still significant variation between colleges in the proportion of applicants assessed as substantially versus partially comparable. This should be an area of focus for colleges who assess most applicants as partially comparable, particularly as applicants are meeting requirements and are being recommended for specialist registration.

After applicants have met their college mandated requirements, their path to specialist recognition tends to be relatively efficient.

These data are being used to inform the Medical Board's current review of the Specialist pathway.

The Expedited Specialist pathway was introduced in October 2024 with general practice the first specialty with qualifications assessed as being substantially equivalent, or based on similar competencies to an approved qualification for the specialty. The new pathway did not appear to have any effect on numbers in the Specialist pathway. The 2025 data is more likely to show any changes to the data.

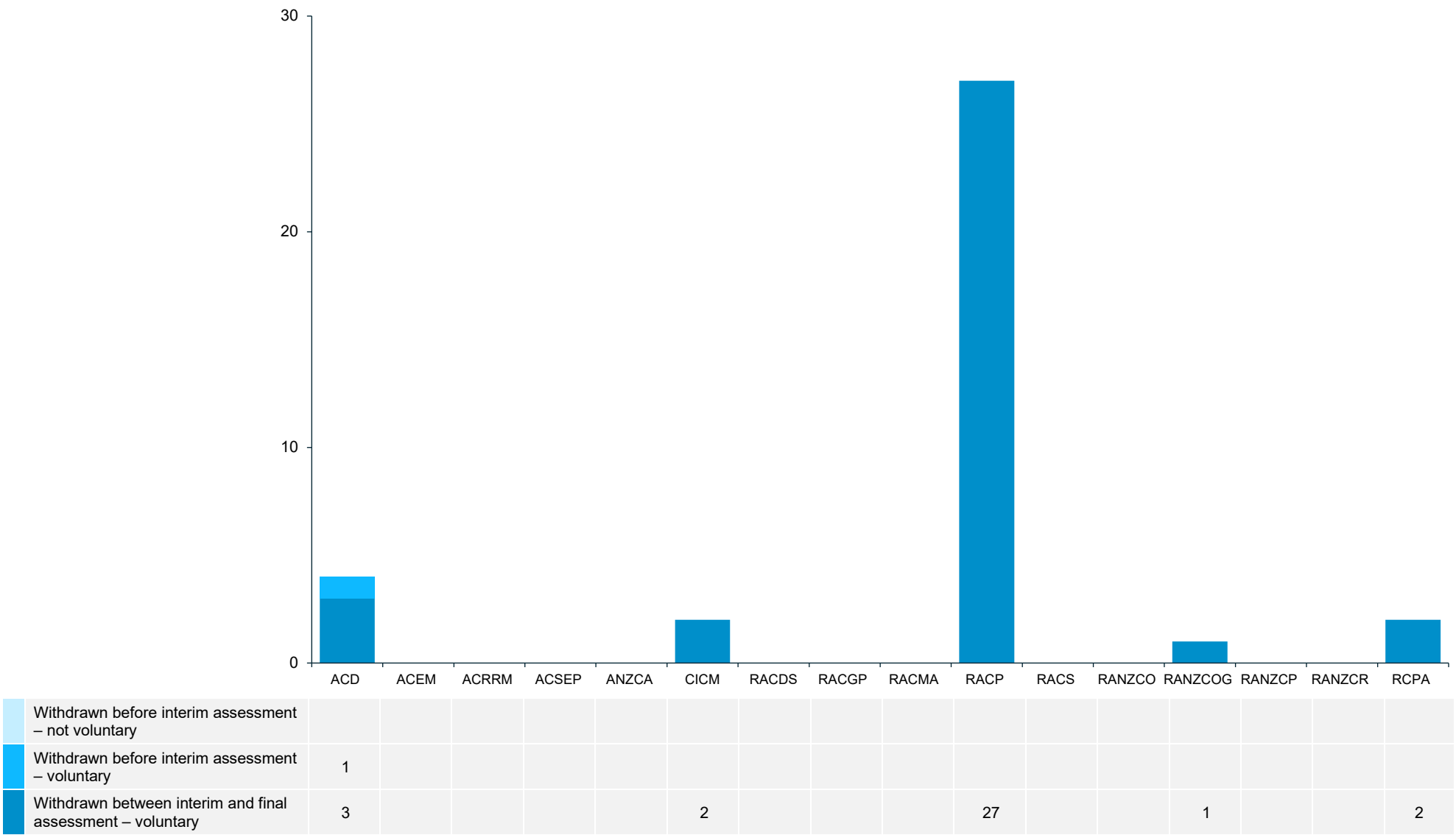
## PART B: GUIDELINES

Report on SIMGs assessed against the *Good practice guidelines*  
for the specialist international medical graduate assessment process

### 1.1 Applications: Number of applications received

There are no applications reported for 2024 as all new applications in 2024 were applications assessed against the Standards.

1.3 Applications: Number of applications withdrawn by SIMGs

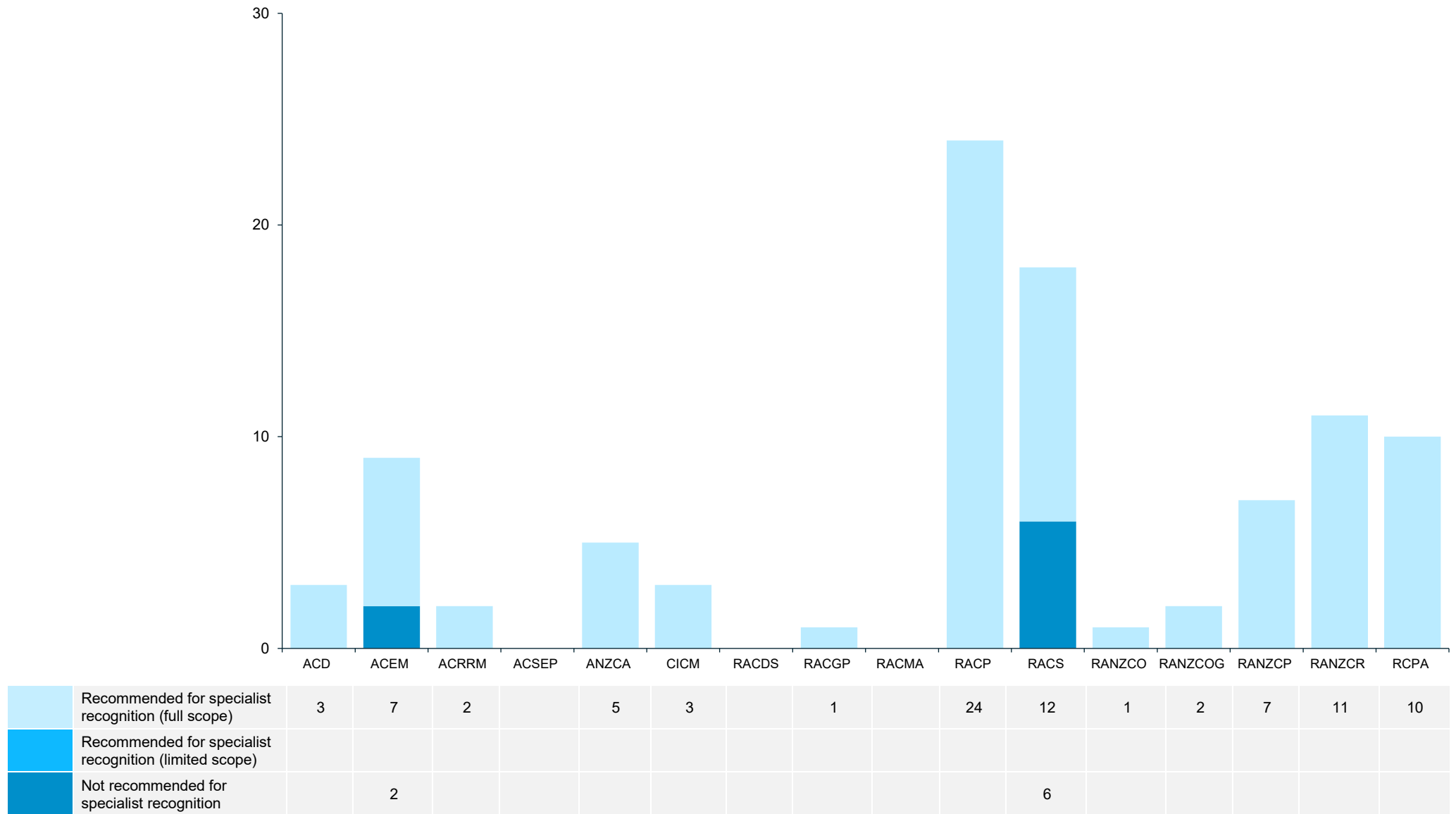




### 2.1 Specialist recognition outcomes: Outcome of interim assessment

There were no applications received before 2021 that had the interim assessment in 2024.

## 2.2 Specialist recognition outcomes: Outcome of final assessment

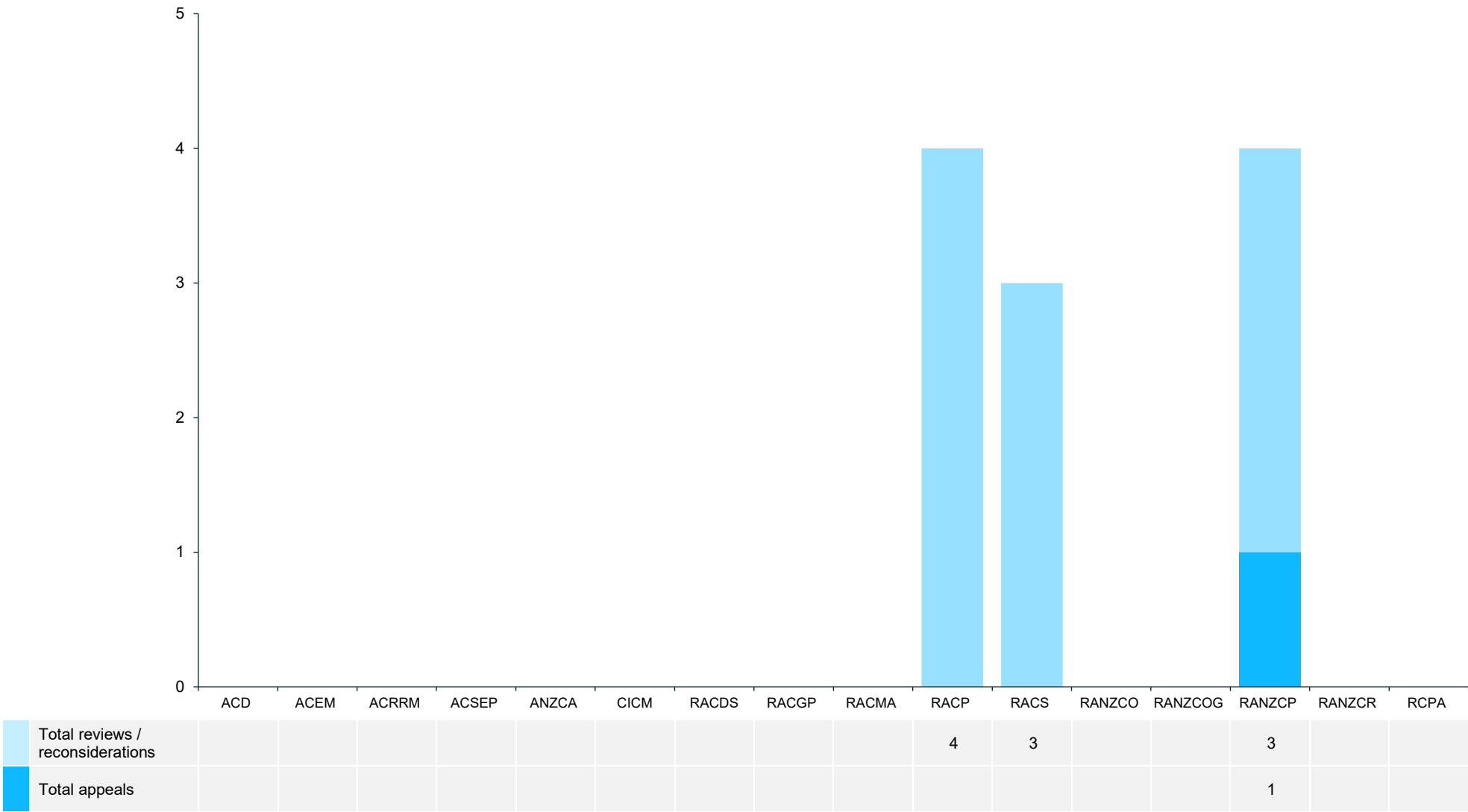


### 2.2.1 Specialist recognition outcomes: Outcome of final assessment: By country of highest specialist qualification – all colleges

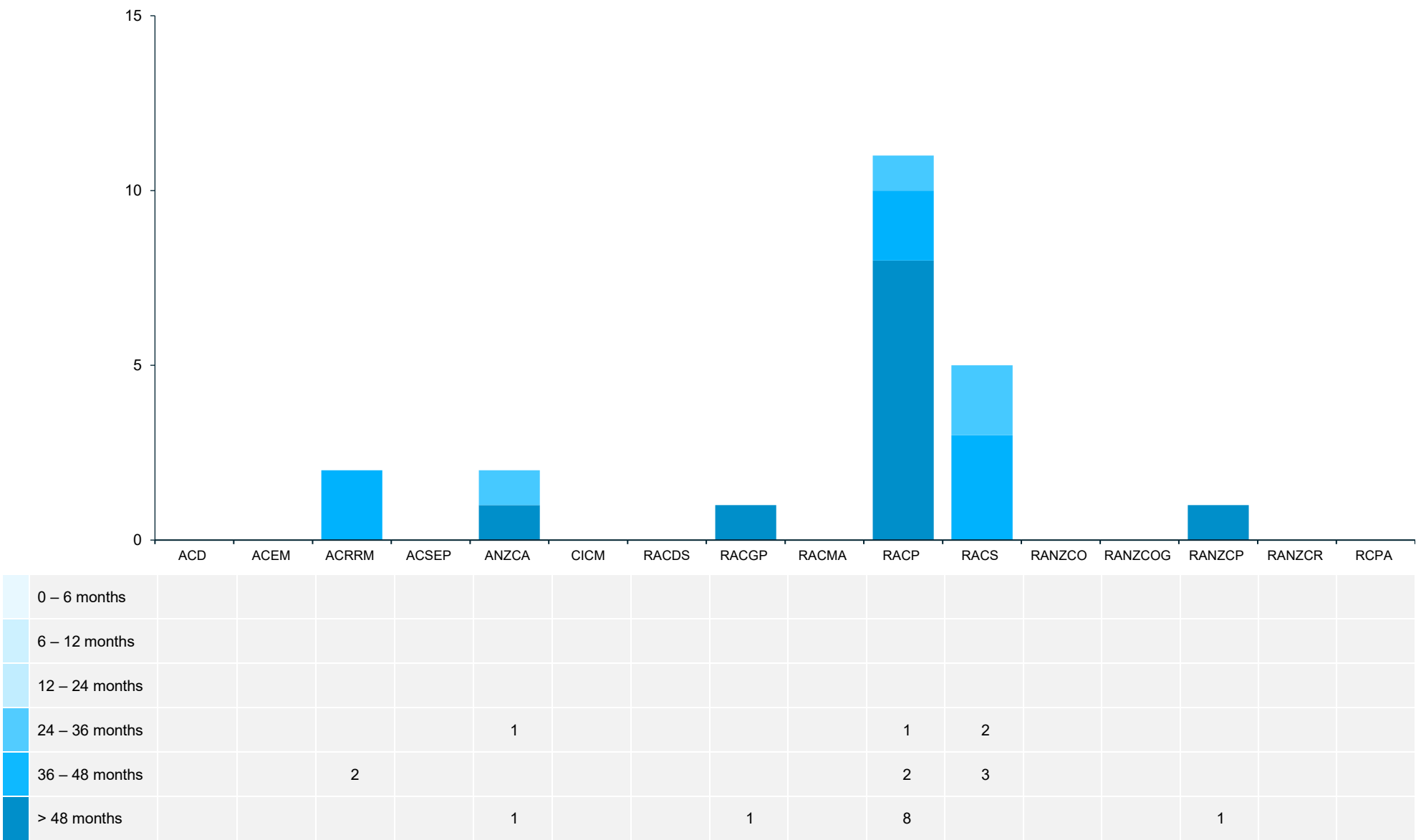
Country	Partially comparable		Substantially comparable	
	Recommended	Not recommended	Recommended	Not recommended
Belgium	1			
Brazil	2			
Chile	1			
China	1			
Egypt	4			
Germany	2		1	
Hong Kong	1	1	3	
India	17	1	1	
Iran	8			
Iraq	1		2	
Israel	2			
Italy	1			
Jordan	2			
Malaysia	1			
Nepal	1			
Nigeria	2			
Pakistan	2			
Poland	1			
Qatar	3			
Singapore			1	
South Africa	4	2	2	
Spain	2			
Sri Lanka	4		3	
Sudan	1			
United Arab Emirates		1		

Country	Partially comparable		Substantially comparable	
	Recommended	Not recommended	Recommended	Not recommended
United Kingdom	3	2	6	
United States of America			1	

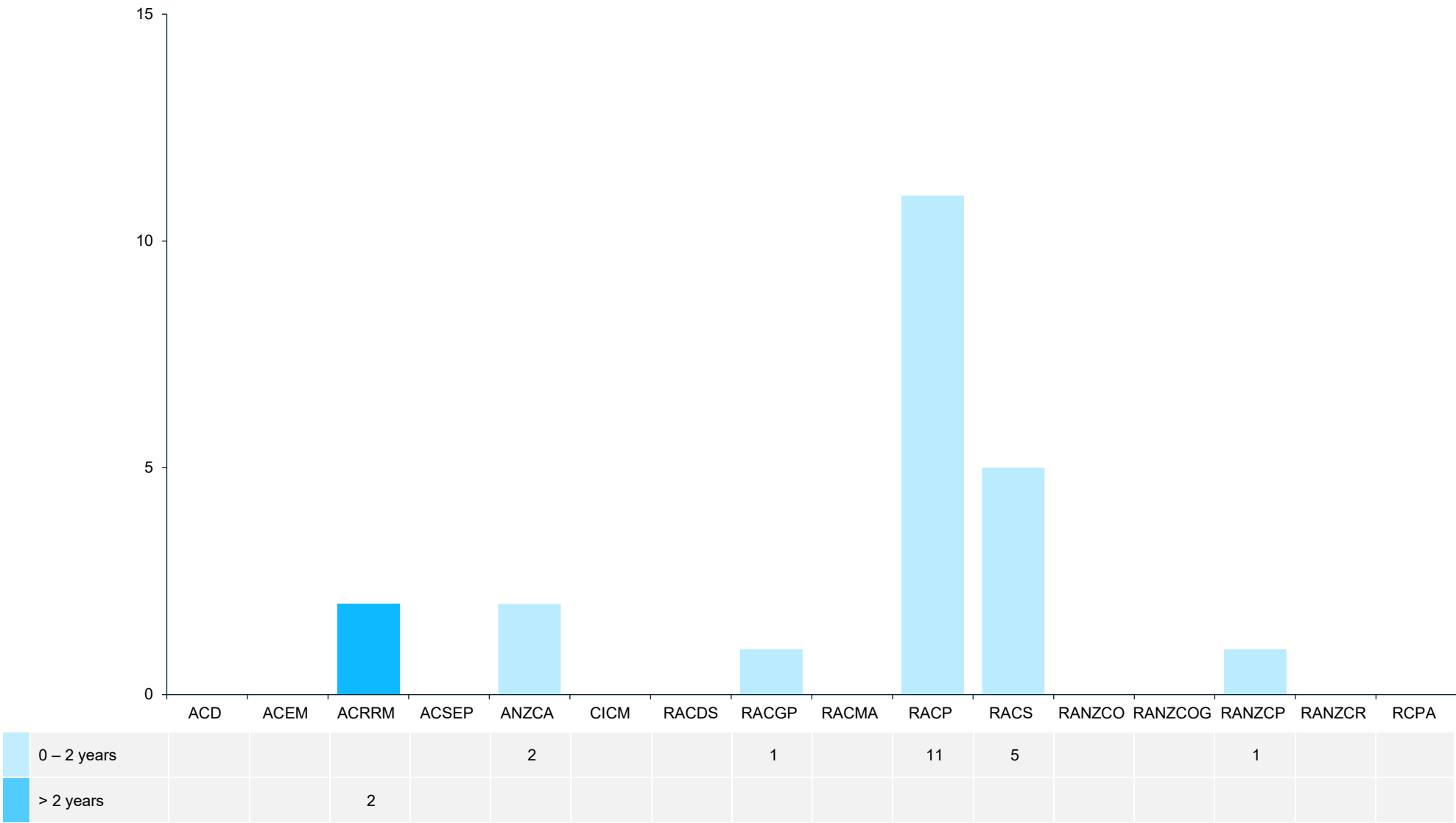
2.4 Specialist recognition outcomes: Number of reviews/reconsiderations and appeals of college decision requested by SIMGs



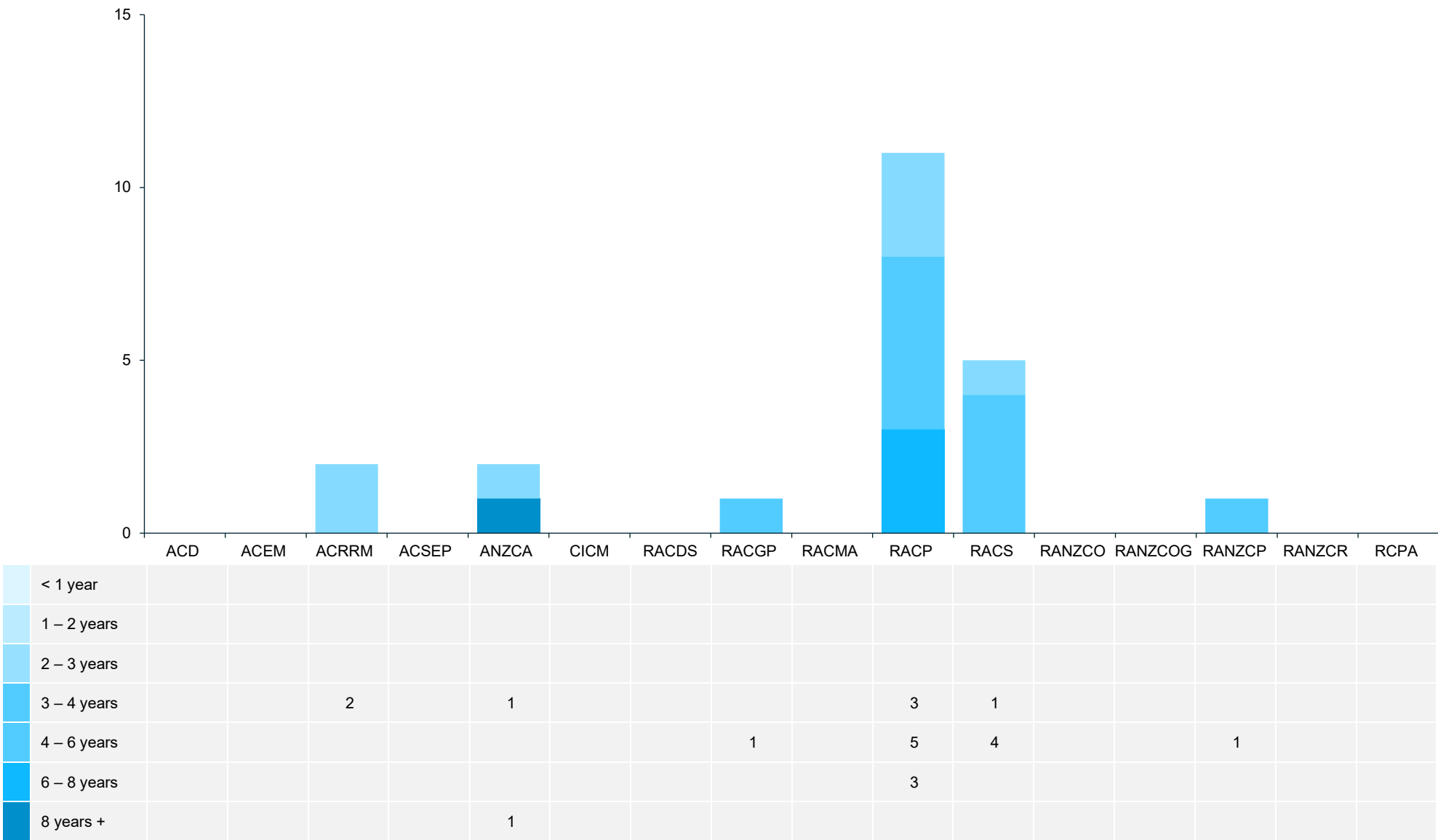
4.1.3 Specialist recognition requirements: Substantially comparable SIMGs: Time for final assessment



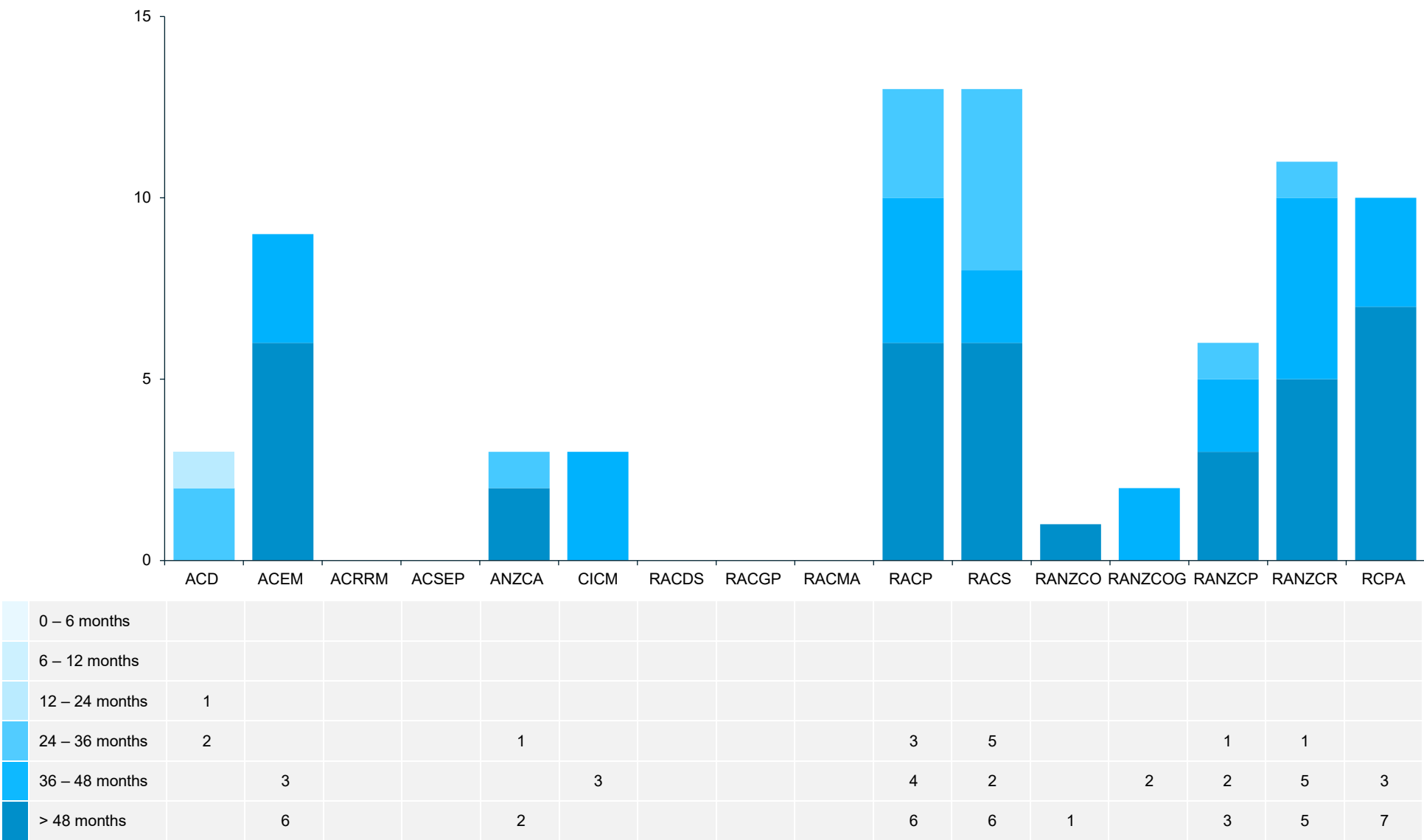
4.1.4 Specialist recognition requirements: Substantially comparable SIMGs: Maximum timeframe for completing college requirements



4.1.5 Specialist recognition requirements: Substantially comparable SIMGs: Total time on specialist pathway

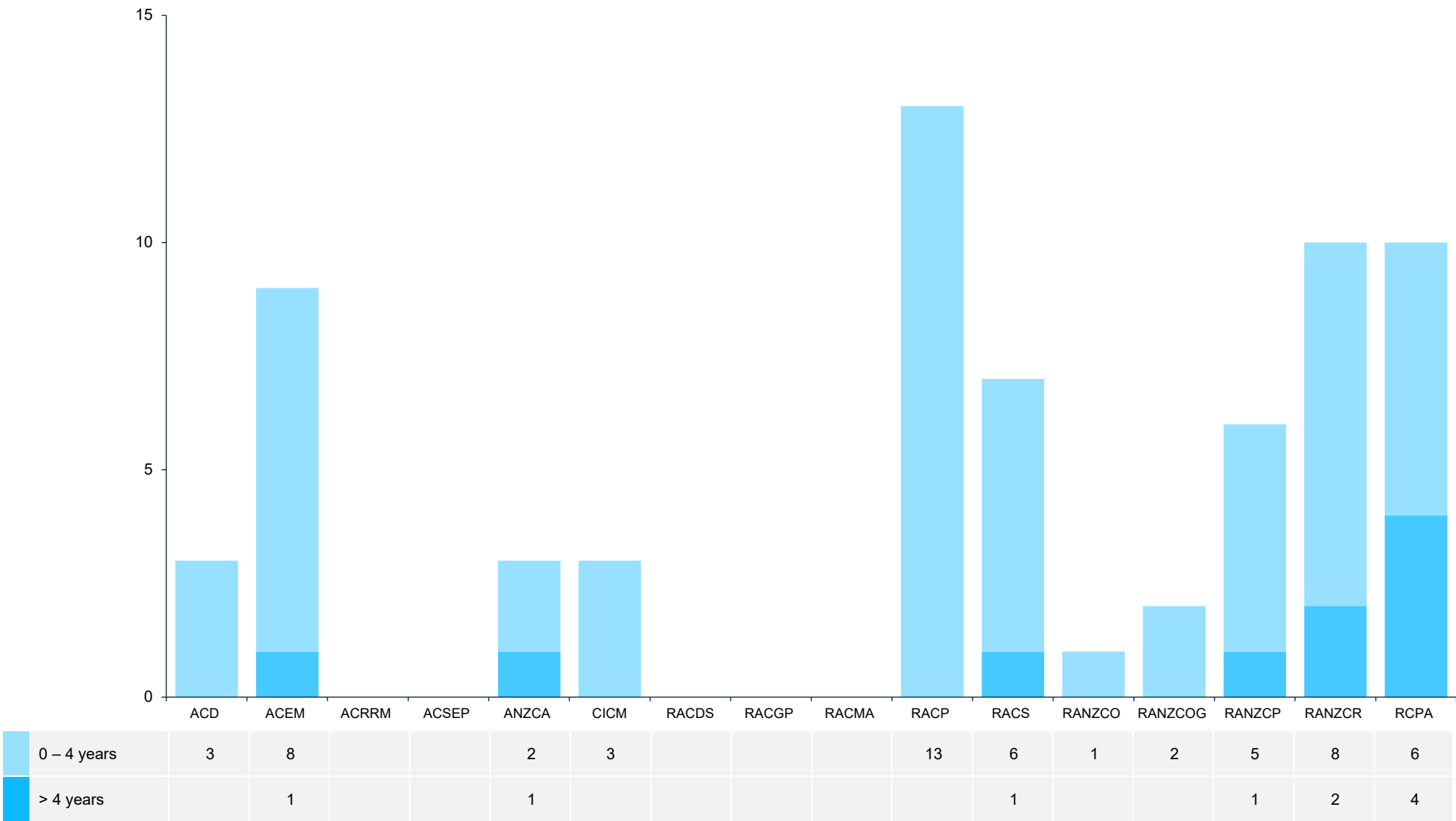


4.2.2 Specialist recognition requirements: Partially comparable SIMGs: Time for final assessment

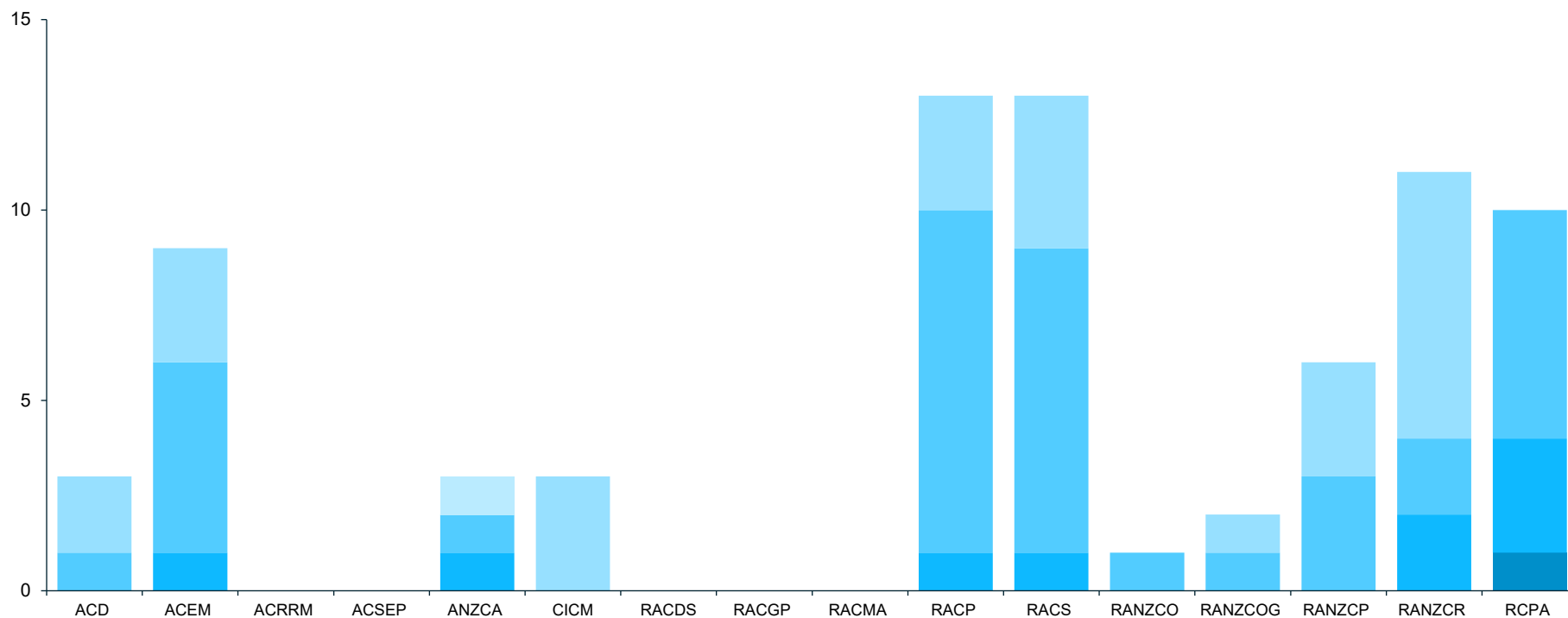




4.2.3 Specialist recognition requirements: Partially comparable SIMGs: Maximum timeframe for completing college requirements

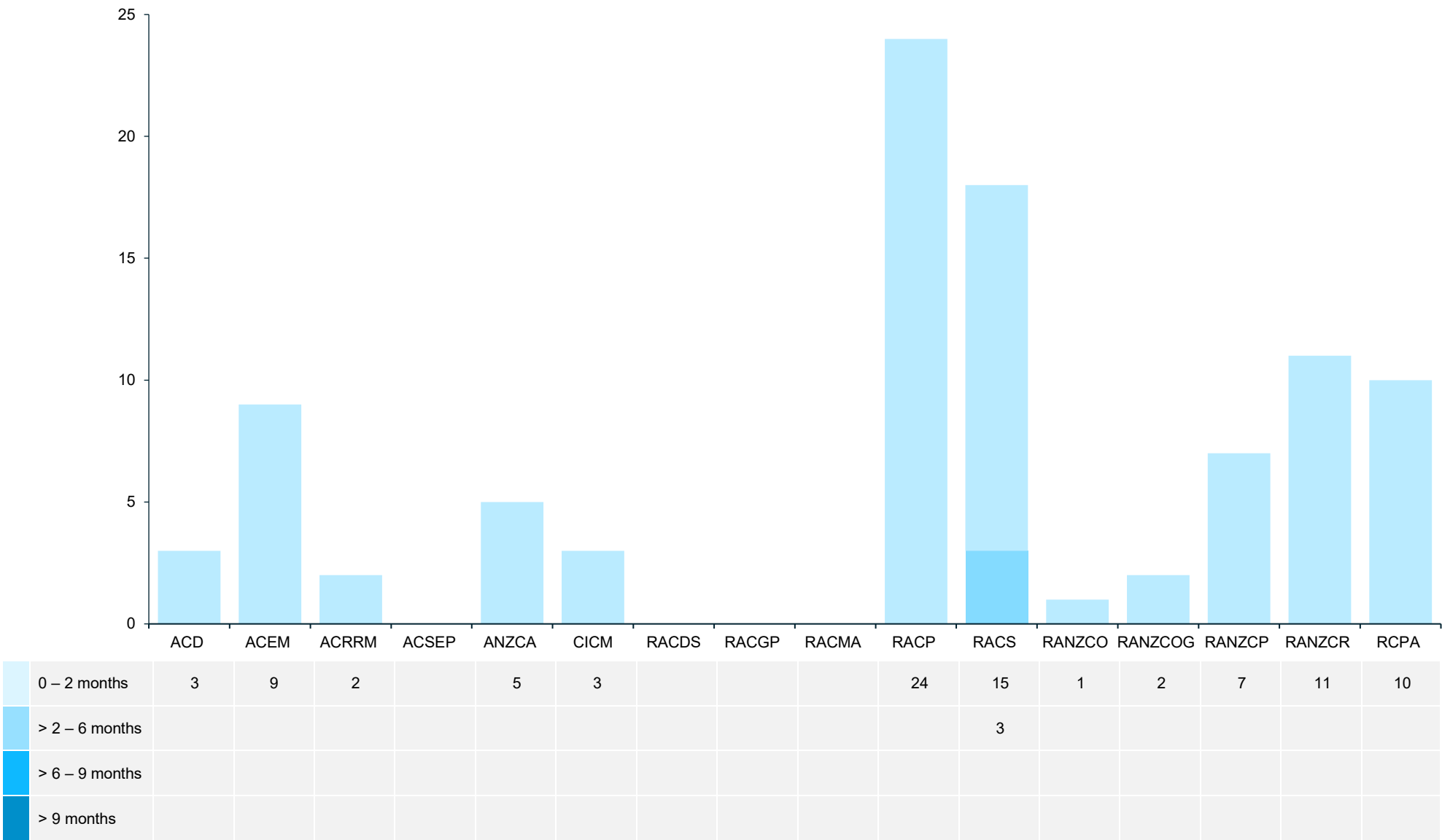


#### 4.2.4 Specialist recognition requirements: Partially comparable SIMGs: Total time on specialist pathway



Note: This metric is from complete application to recommended for specialist recognition. As this time is taken from 'complete application', it is possible for a SIMG who applied in 2020 or earlier, and finished in 2024, to have a total time of less than four years.

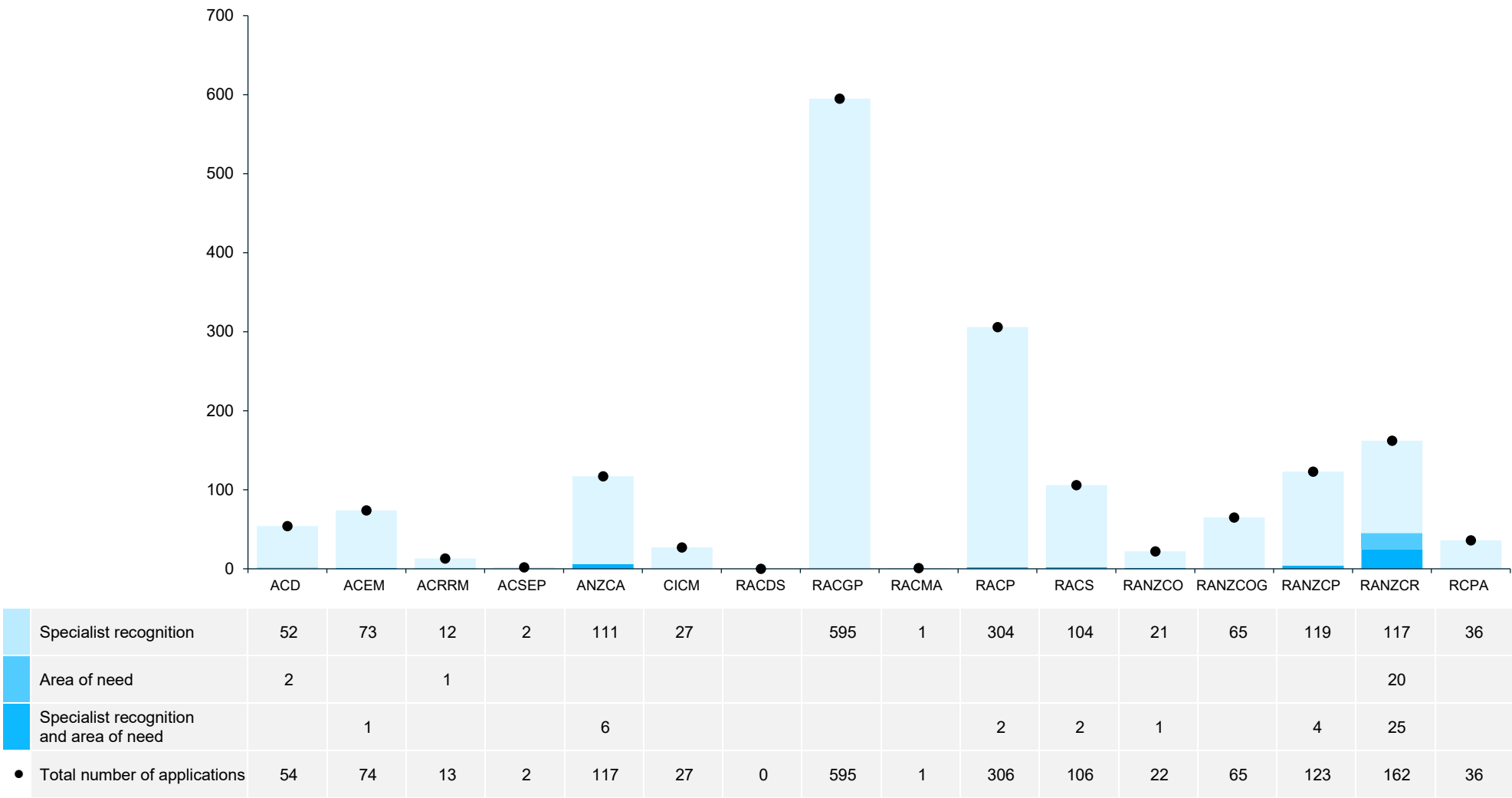
4.3.1 Specialist recognition requirements: Final assessment decision: Time for specialist recognition final assessment decision



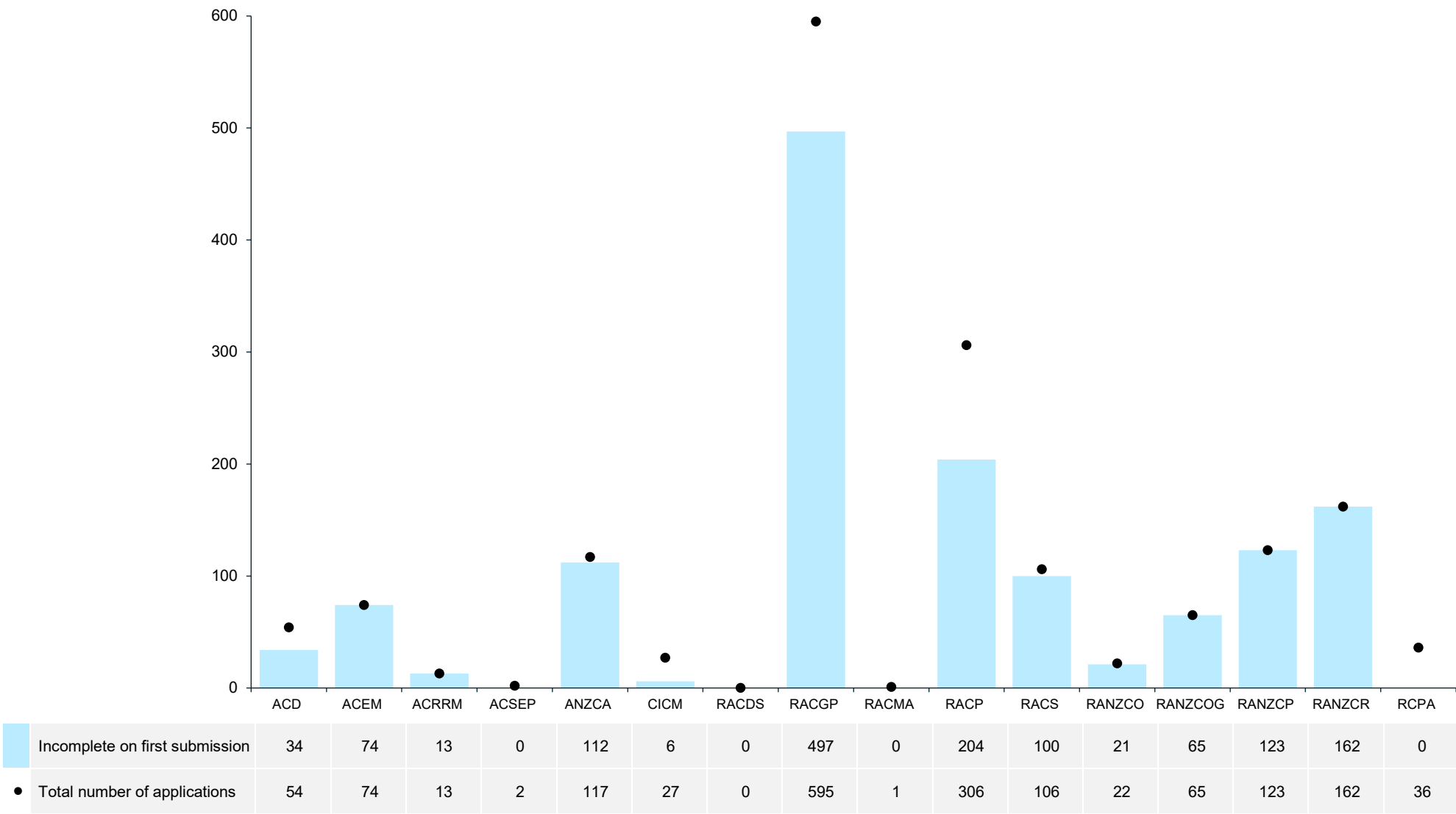
# PART C: STANDARDS

Report on SIMGs assessed against the *Standards: Specialist medical college assessment of specialist international medical graduates*

1.1 Applications: Number of applications received

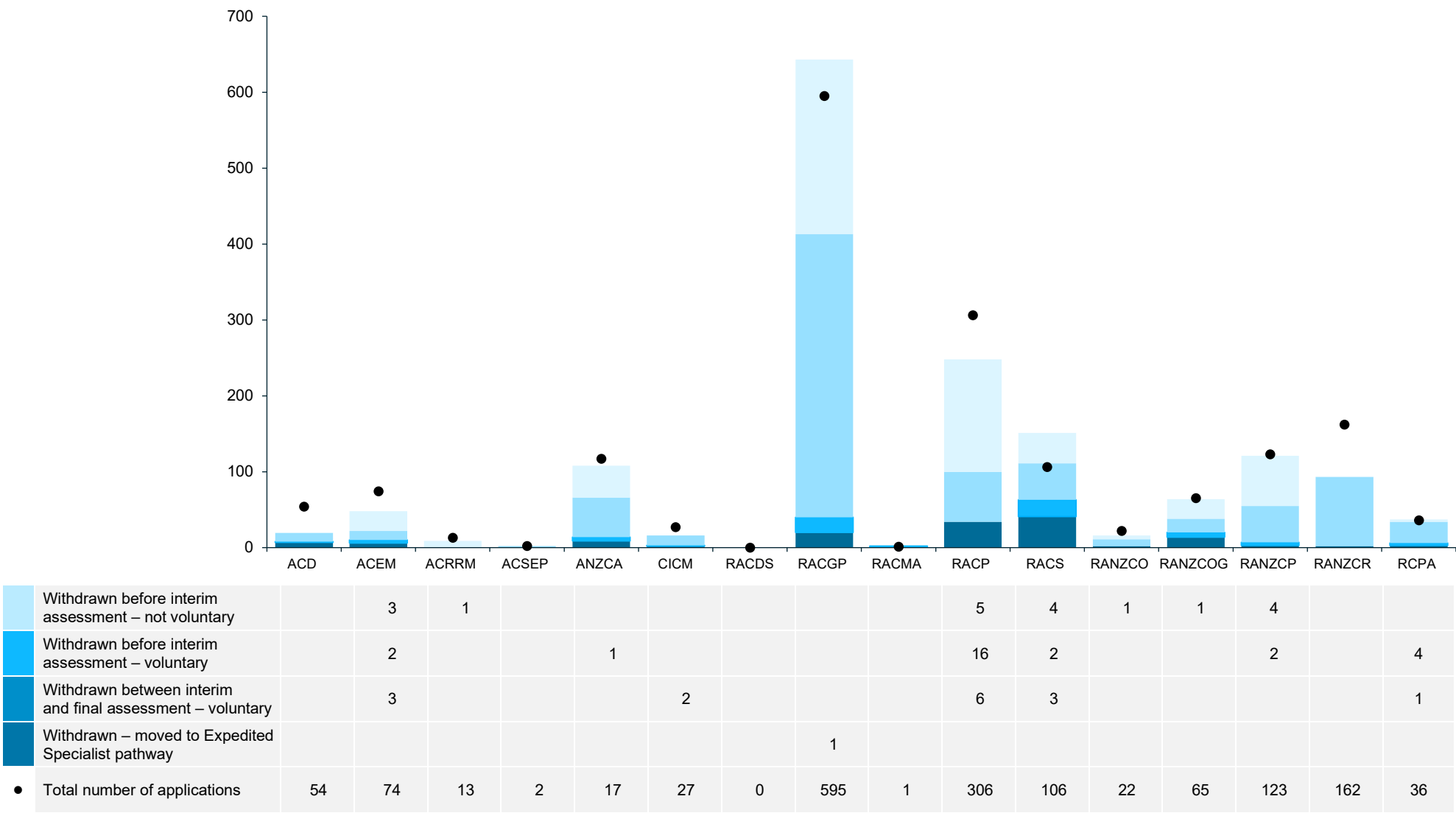


1.2 Applications: Number of applications incomplete on first submission

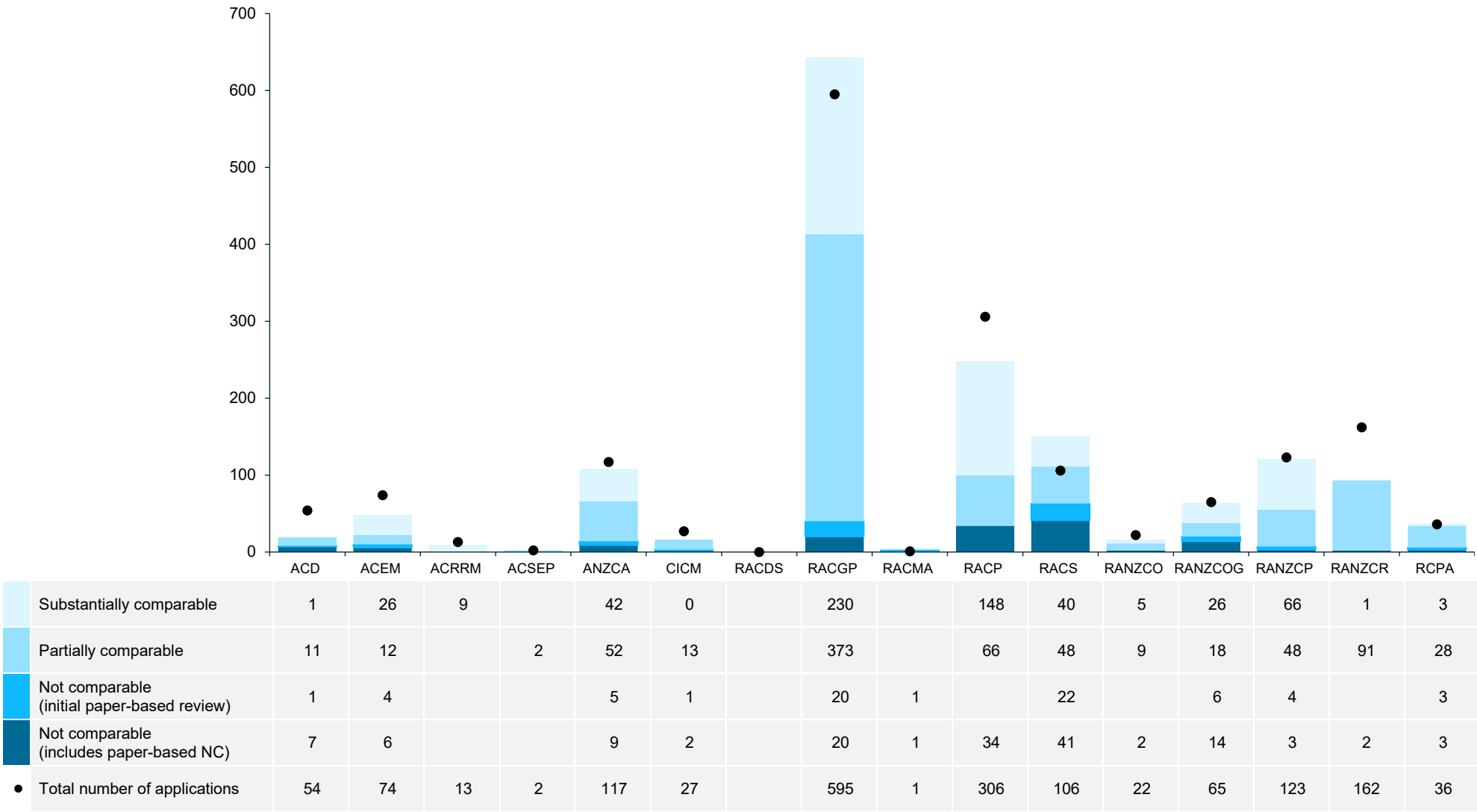


Note: Some colleges require documentation from a third party for applications to be complete (for example, college sourced referee reports).

1.3 Applications: Number of applications withdrawn by SIMGs



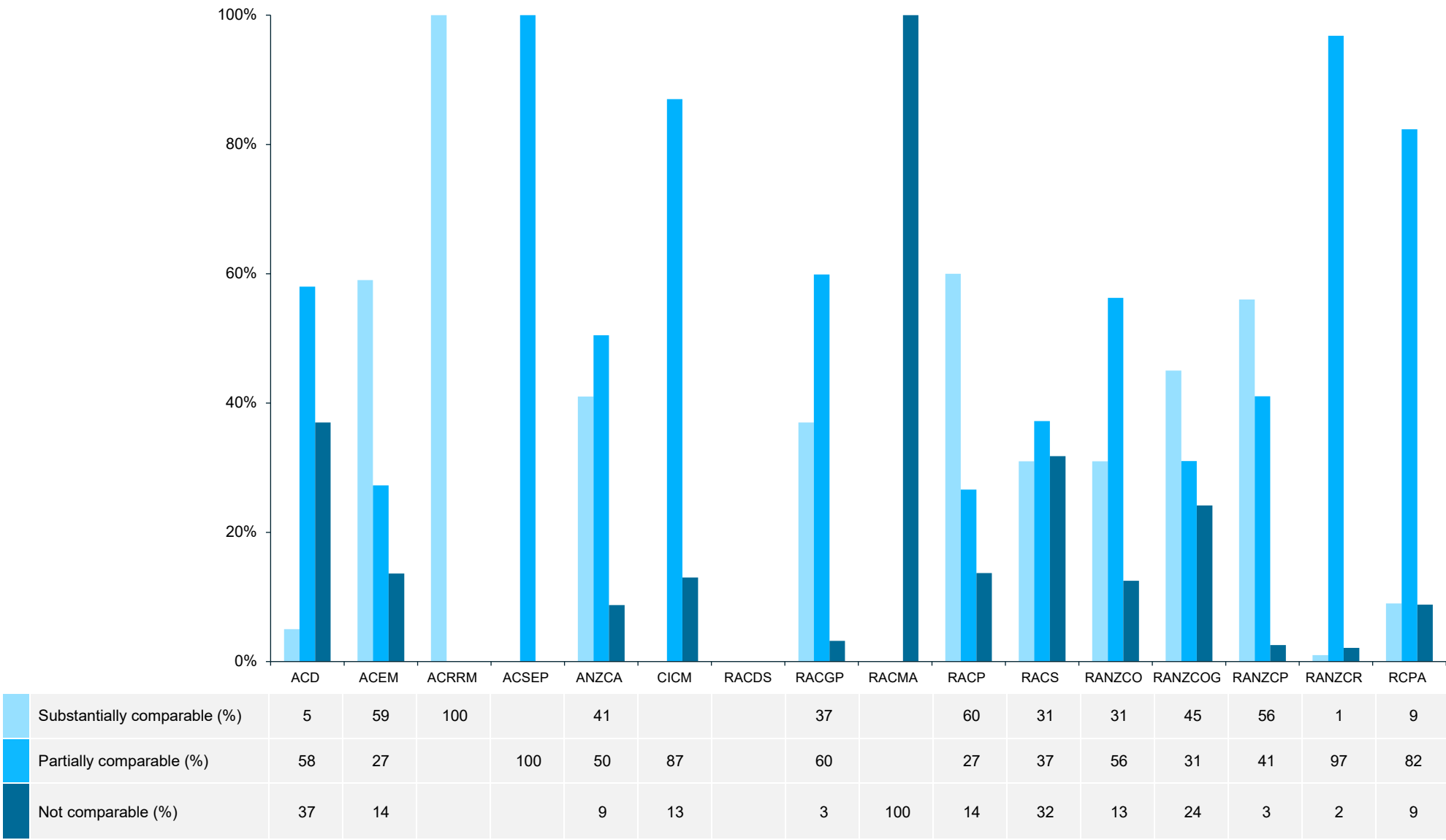
2.1 Specialist recognition outcomes: Outcome of interim assessment (as numbers)



Note: Some colleges allow SIMGs who were not comparable after a paper-based assessment to opt for interview. Outcomes of assessment may not total 'Total number of applications received' as some assessments were still in progress.



2.1 Specialist recognition outcomes: Outcome of interim assessment (as %)



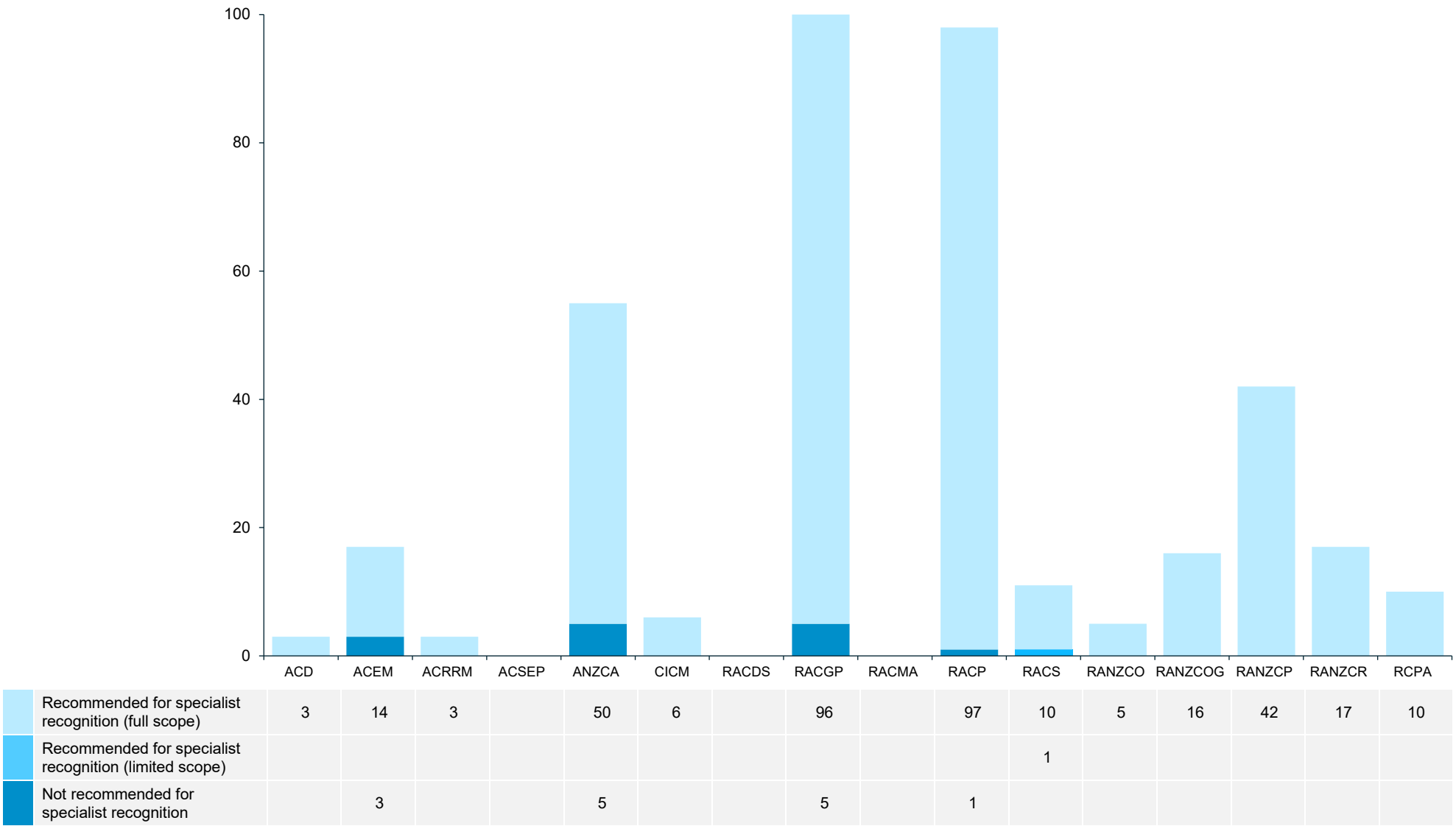
## 2.1.1 Specialist recognition outcomes: Outcome of interim assessment: By country of highest specialist qualification – all colleges

Country	Not comparable	Partially comparable	Substantially comparable
Argentina	2	3	4
Bahrain		2	
Bangladesh	1	4	1
Belgium	1	2	1
Brazil	1	6	2
Bulgaria		1	
Canada	4	7	12
Chile			1
China	1	1	
Croatia			1
Denmark			1
Egypt	2	15	
France	1	2	
Germany	1	10	2
Hong Kong		6	6
Hungary		1	
India	31	98	36
Indonesia	1		
Iran	14	25	29
Iraq	2	1	
Ireland		3	21
Israel	1	4	7

Country	Not comparable	Partially comparable	Substantially comparable
Italy		2	
Japan		2	
Jordan		3	
Kenya	1	7	1
Lebanon	2		
Malaysia	2	8	15
Malta		1	
Mexico	2		
Myanmar		1	
Nepal	1	3	
Netherlands	1	4	2
New Zealand	1		18
Nigeria	4	19	15
Norway	1		
North Macedonia		1	
Oman		1	
Pakistan	14	22	4
Peru	1		
Philippines	2	39	
Poland	1	2	
Portugal		1	
Qatar	1	3	5

Country	Not comparable	Partially comparable	Substantially comparable
Russia	1		1
Saudi Arabia	1	6	
Serbia		1	
Singapore		1	2
South Africa	5	37	18
South Korea		1	
Spain	3	10	2
Sri Lanka	5	30	45
Sudan	2		
Sweden	1	2	2
Switzerland		3	1
Syria	2	3	1
Taiwan		1	
Thailand	1	4	
Turkey	2	5	3
United Arab Emirates			2
United Kingdom	17	347	322
United States of America	3	9	13
Venezuela	1		1
Vietnam	2		
Zimbabwe		1	
No specialist qualification	1		

2.2 Specialist recognition outcomes: Outcome of final assessment

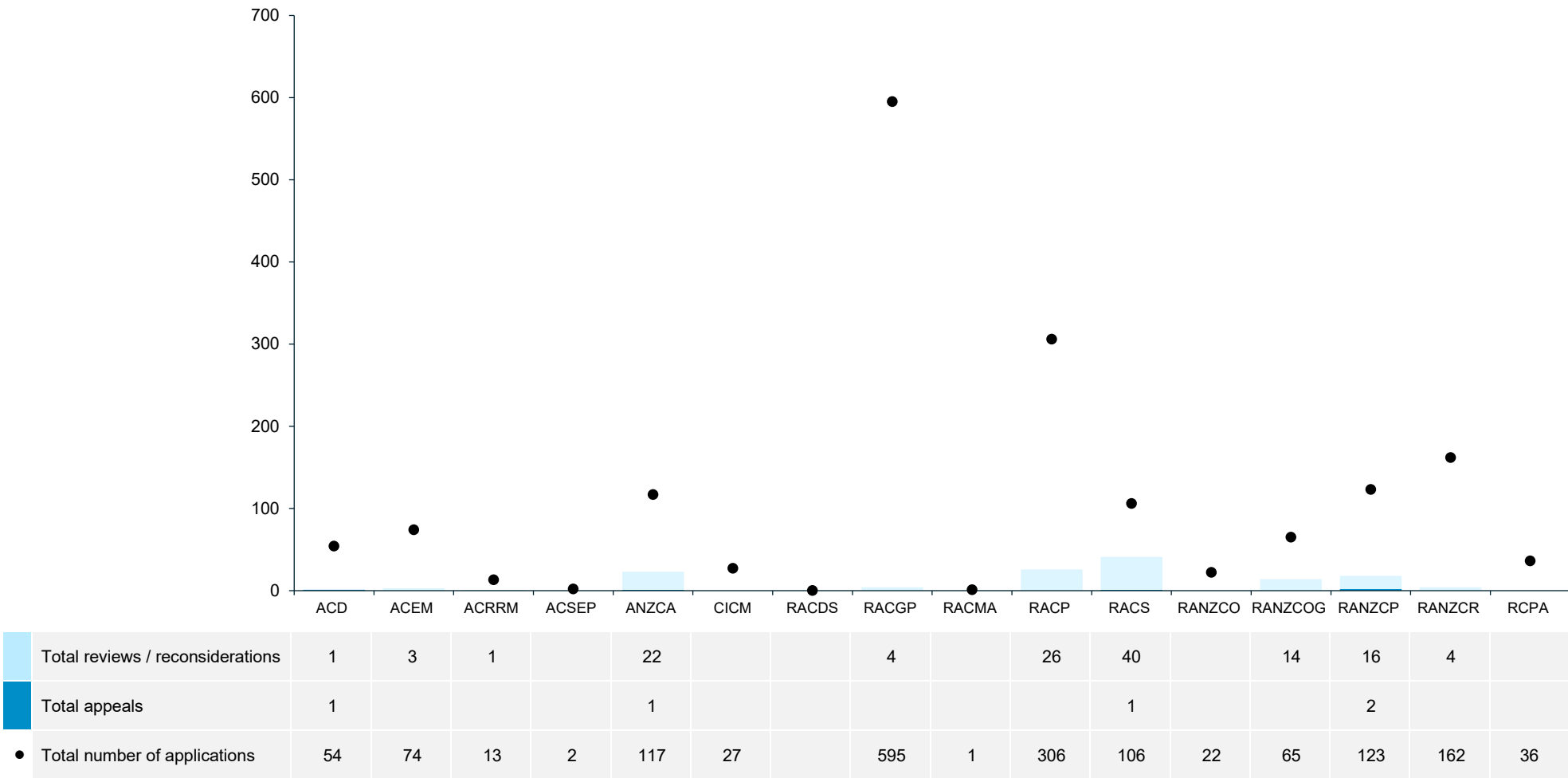


**2.2.1 Specialist recognition outcomes: Outcome of final assessment:** By country of highest specialist qualification – all colleges

Country	Partially comparable		Substantially comparable	
	Recommended	Not recommended	Recommended	Not recommended
Belgium	1	1	1	
Brazil	3			
Canada	2	1	4	
Chile			1	
Czech Republic	1			
Egypt			1	
France	1			
Germany	2		1	
Hong Kong	2		7	
India	22		17	1
Iran	2		8	
Iraq			1	
Ireland	1	1	16	
Israel			2	
Jordan	1		1	
Kenya	2			
Kuwait			1	
Lebanon			1	
Lithuania			4	

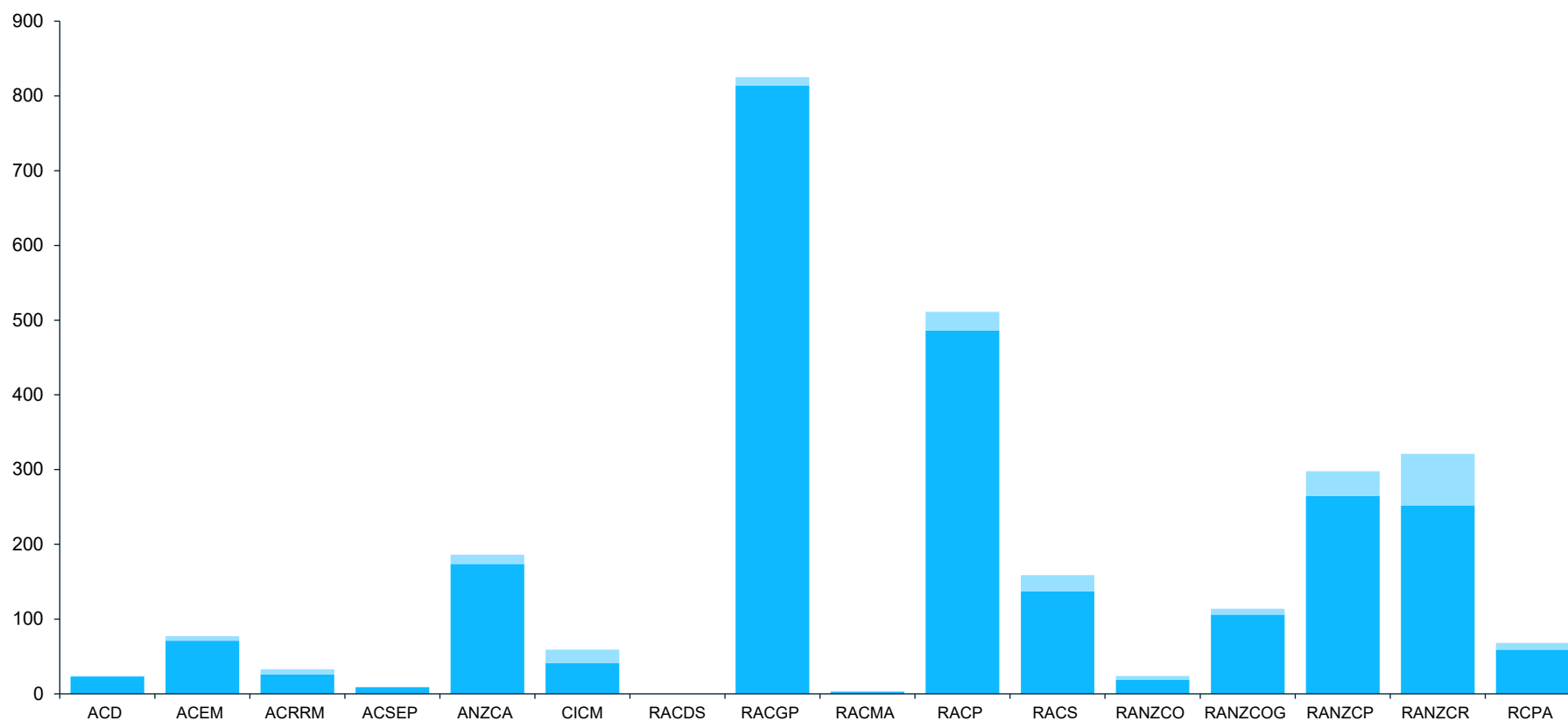
Country	Partially comparable		Substantially comparable	
	Recommended	Not recommended	Recommended	Not recommended
Malaysia	1		10	
Nepal	1			
Netherlands	1			
New Zealand			11	
Nigeria			1	
Pakistan	3		1	
Poland			1	
Portugal	1			
Qatar	1		1	
Saudi Arabia			1	
Singapore	2		1	
South Africa	18		9	
Spain	1		1	
Sri Lanka	4	1	30	
Syria	1			
Taiwan			3	
United Arab Emirates			2	
United Kingdom	9		143	7
United States of America	5	1	2	1

2.4 Specialist recognition outcomes: Number of reviews/reconsiderations and appeals of college decision requested by SIMGs



Note: Colleges have different appeals process and classification of 'reviews/reconsideration and appeals' vary.

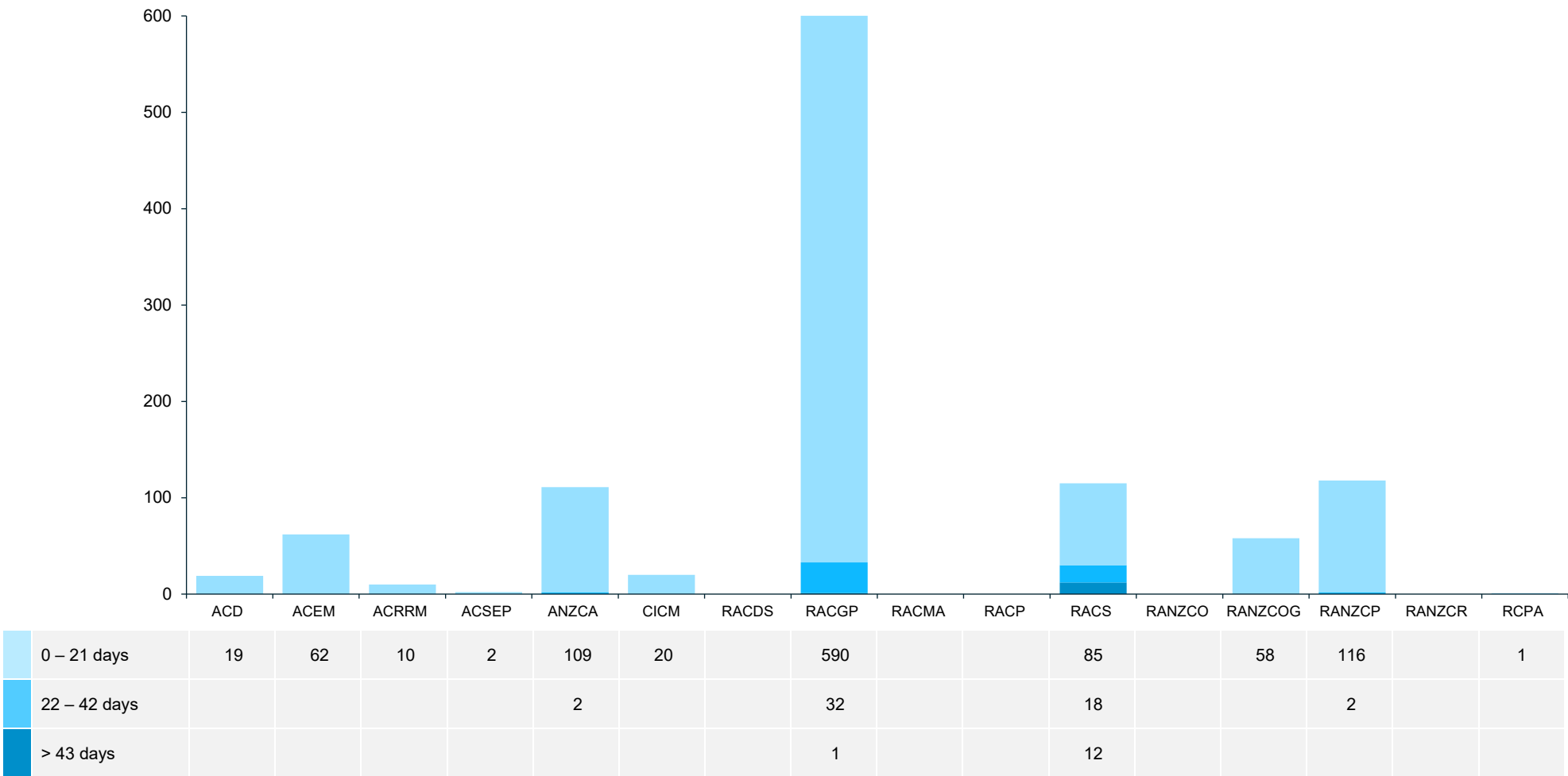
## 2.5 Specialist recognition outcomes: Total number of SIMGs on specialist pathway: Good practice guidelines and Standards



Total – Guidelines	1	6	7	0	12	18	0	11	0	25	22	5	8	33	69	9
Total – Standards	23	71	26	9	174	41	0	814	3	486	137	19	106	265	252	59
Total SIMGs	24	77	33	9	186	59	0	825	3	511	159	24	114	298	321	68

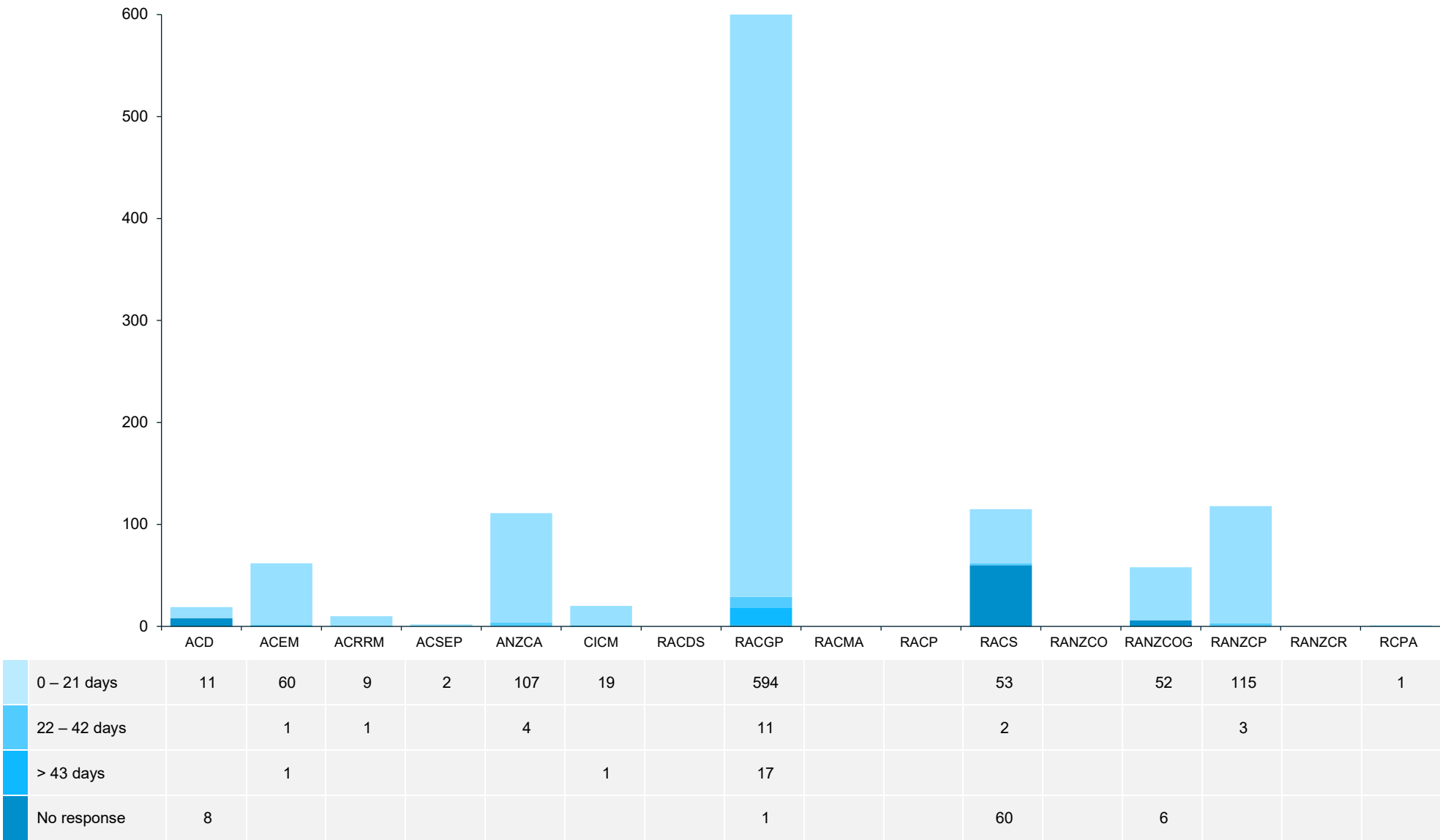
Note: Some colleges' 2023 data for total number of SIMGs was subsequently found to be incorrect.

3.1.1 Specialist recognition timeframes: Interim assessment – Summary of Preliminary Review (SPR) before interview: Time for SPR to applicant



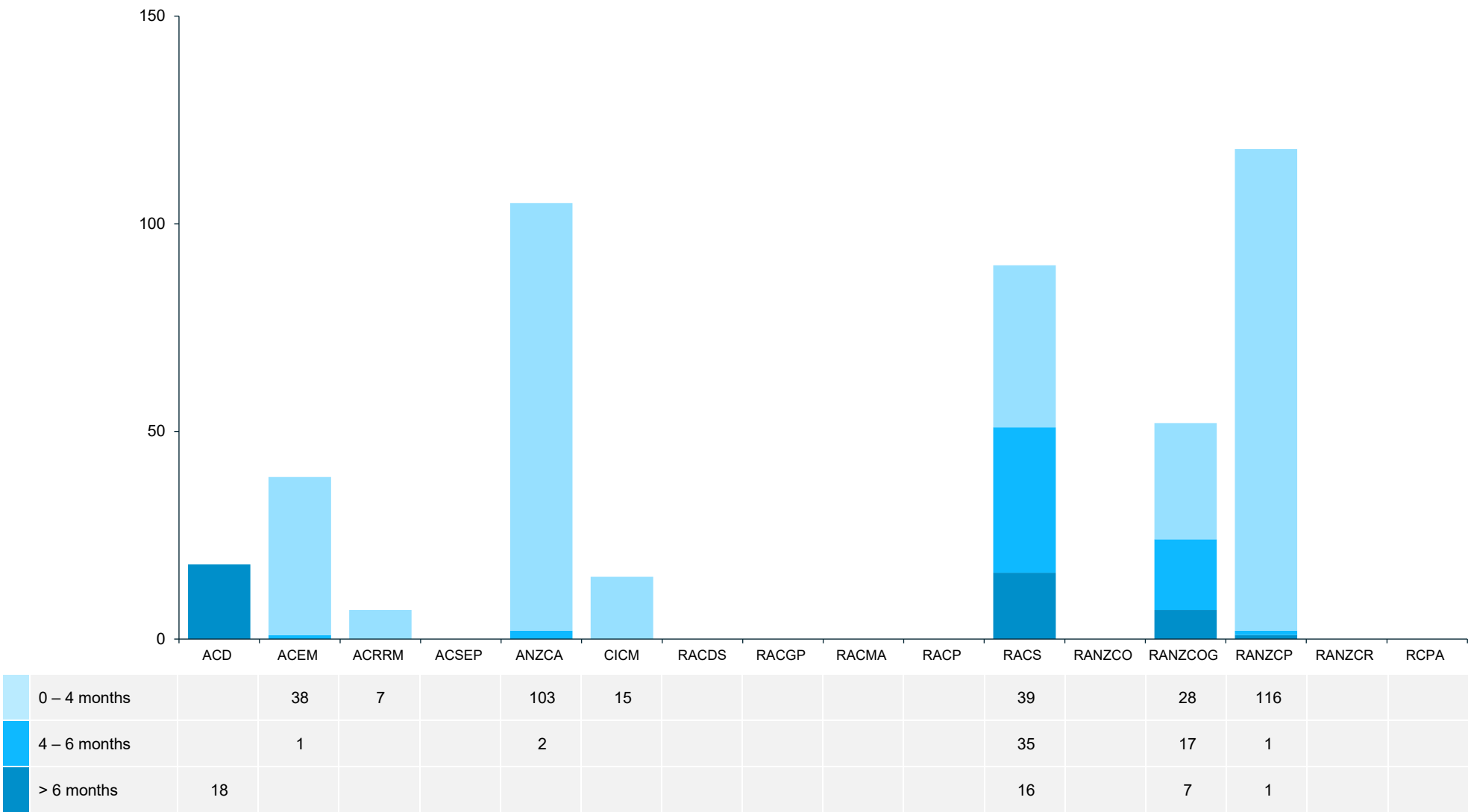
Note: RCPA use a SPR before or after the interview.

3.1.2 Specialist recognition timeframes: Interim assessment – Summary of Preliminary Review (SPR) before interview: Time for applicant response



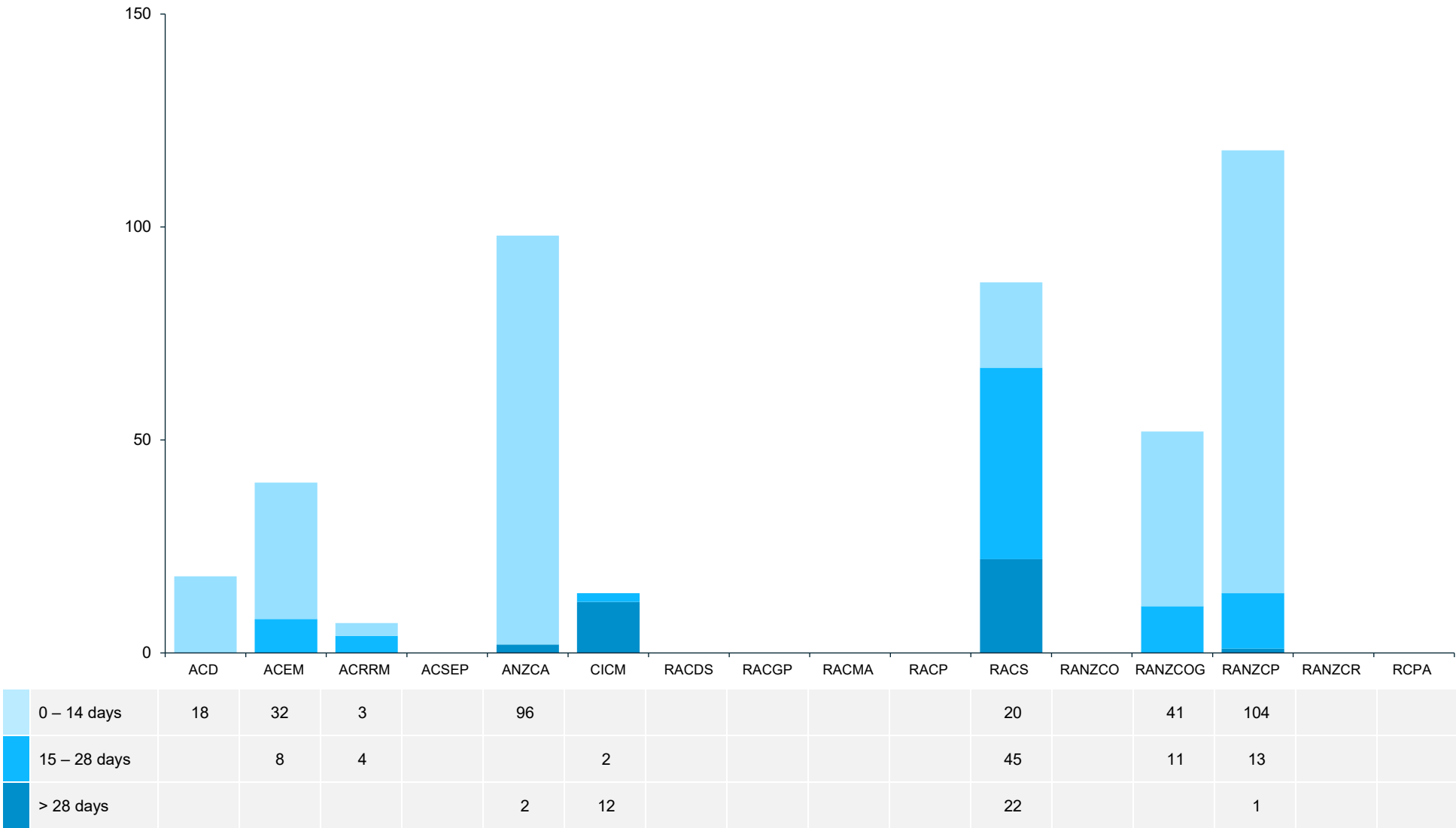


3.1.3 Specialist recognition timeframes: Interim assesment – Summary of Preliminary Review (SPR) before interview: Time to first available interview



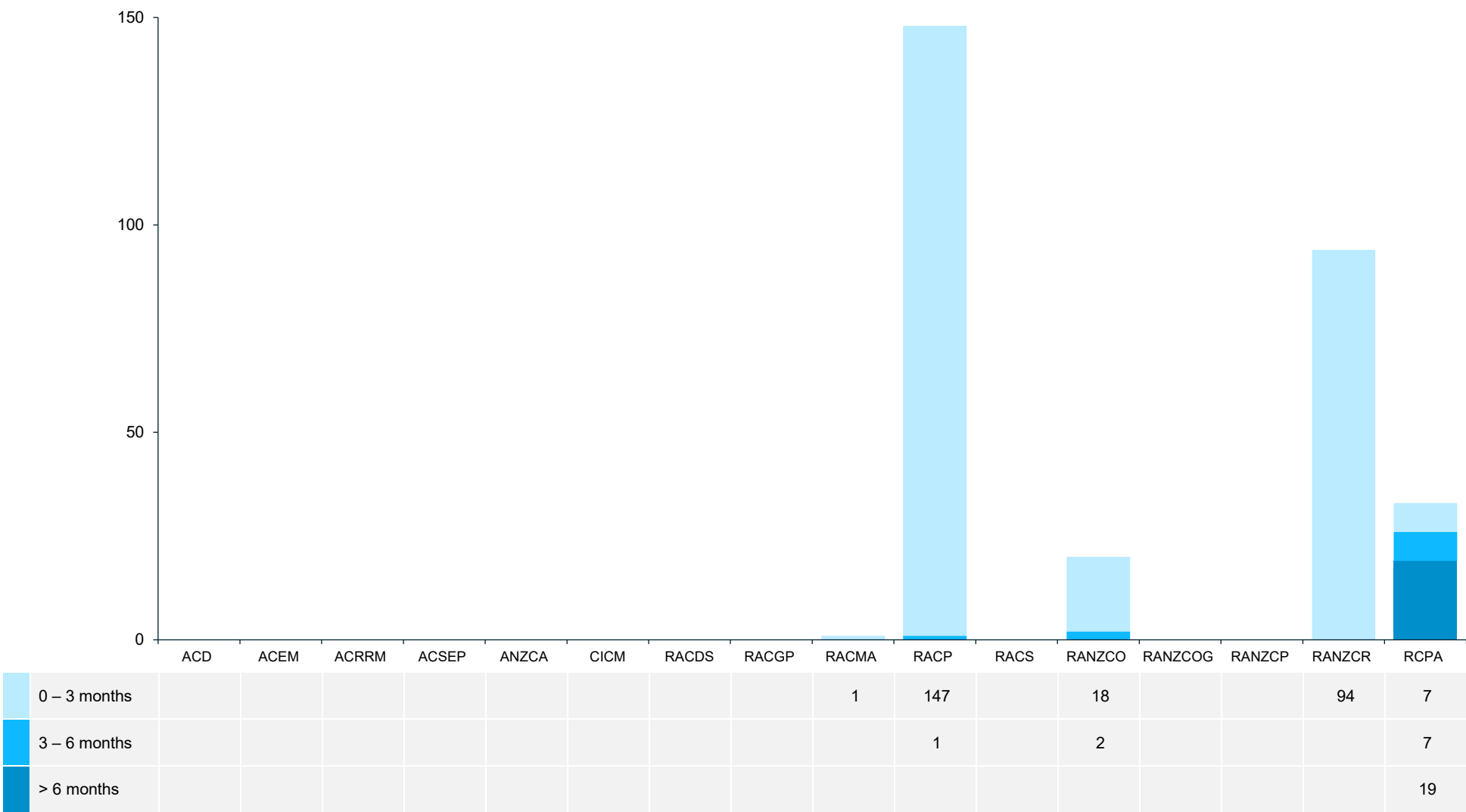
Note: RACGP do not interview to assess comparability.

3.1.4 Specialist recognition timeframes: Interim assessment – Summary of Preliminary Review (SPR) before interview: Time from interview to decision



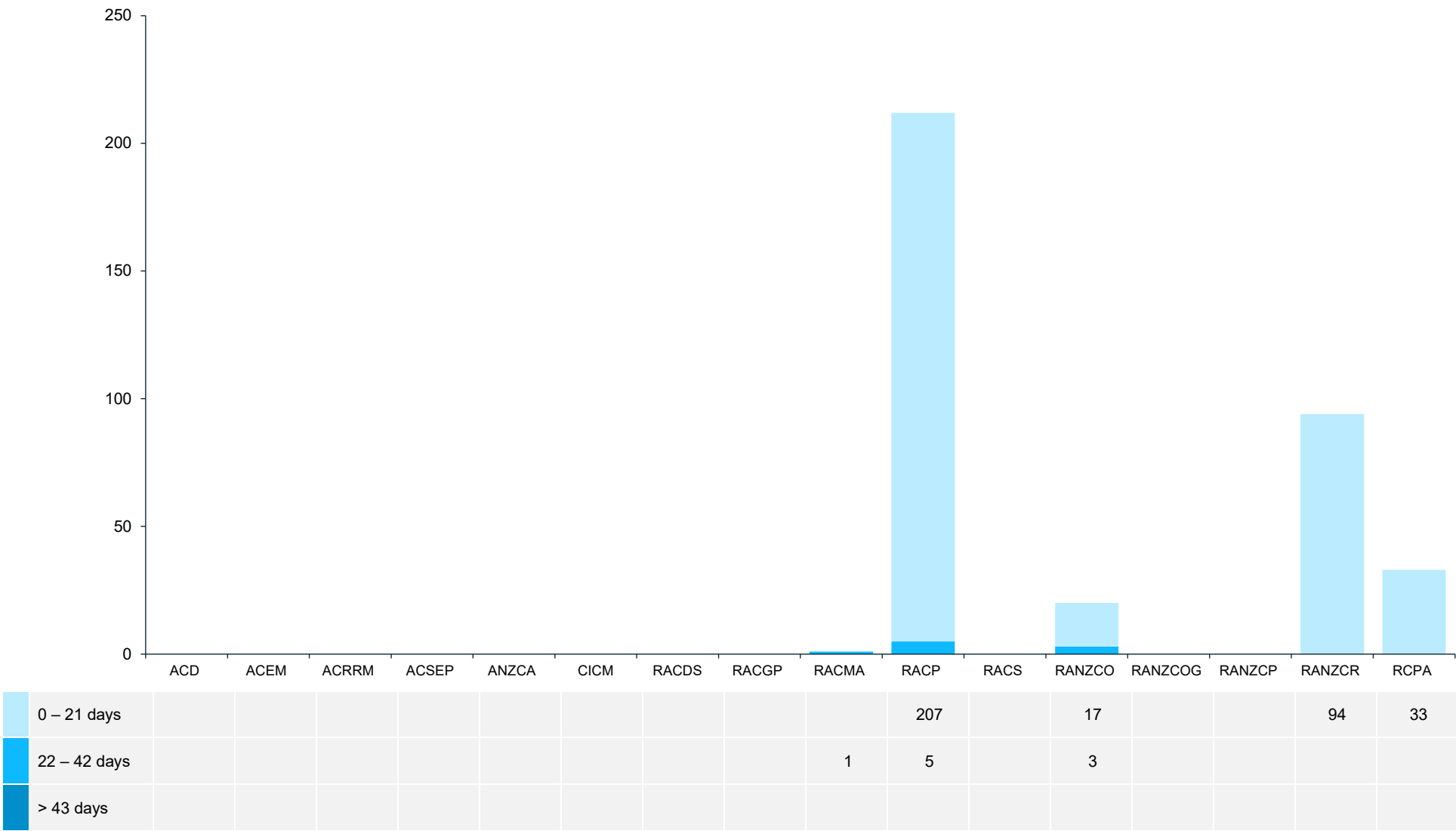
Note: RACGP do not interview to assess comparability.

3.2.1 Specialist recognition timeframes: Interim assessment – Summary of Preliminary Review (SPR) after interview: Time to first available interview

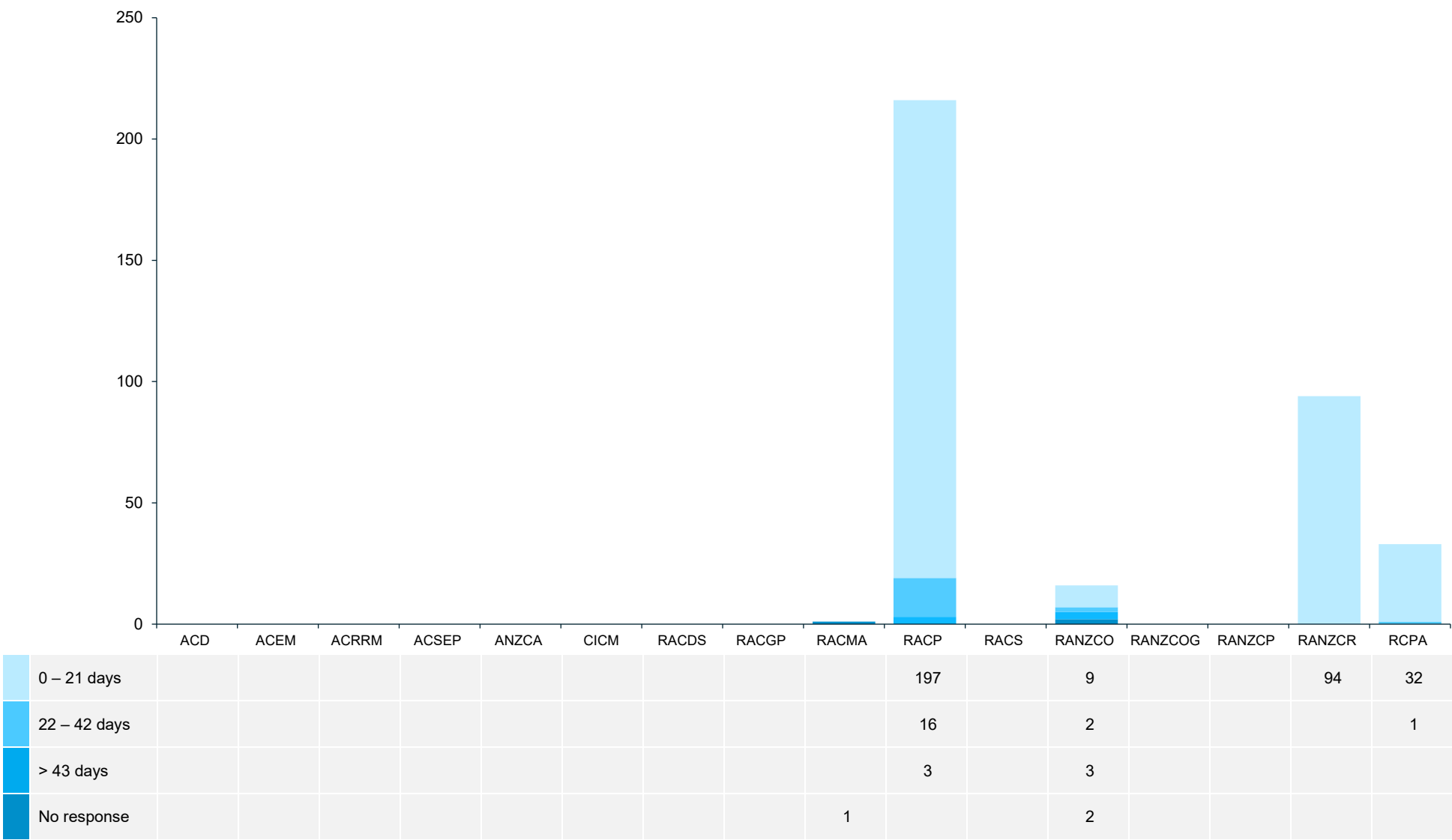


Note: RCPA use a SPR before or after the interview.

3.2.2 Specialist recognition timeframes: Interim assessment – Summary of Preliminary Review (SPR) after interview: Time for SPR to applicant

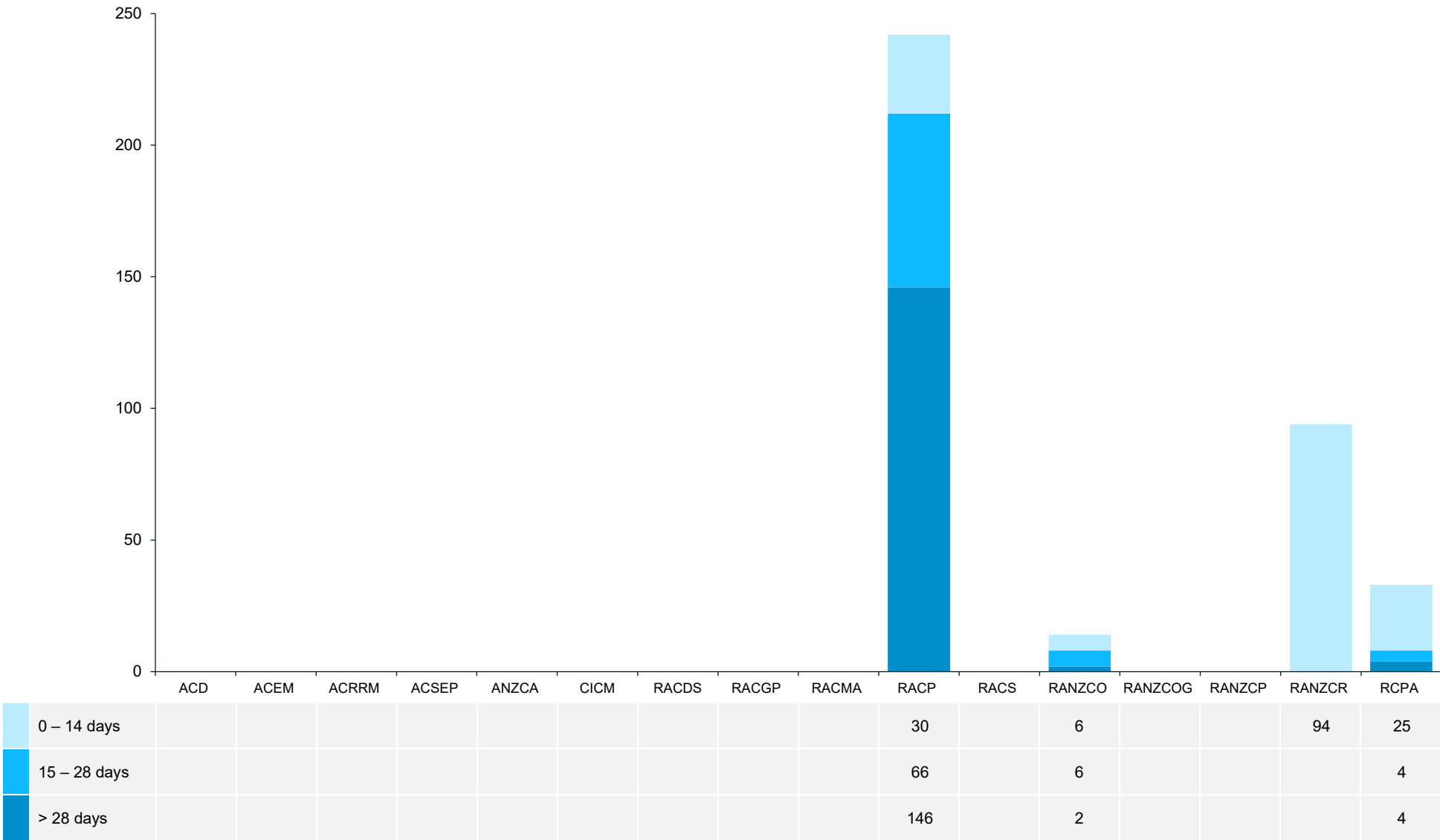


3.2.3 Specialist recognition timeframes: Interim assessment – Summary of Preliminary Review (SPR) after interview: Time for applicant response

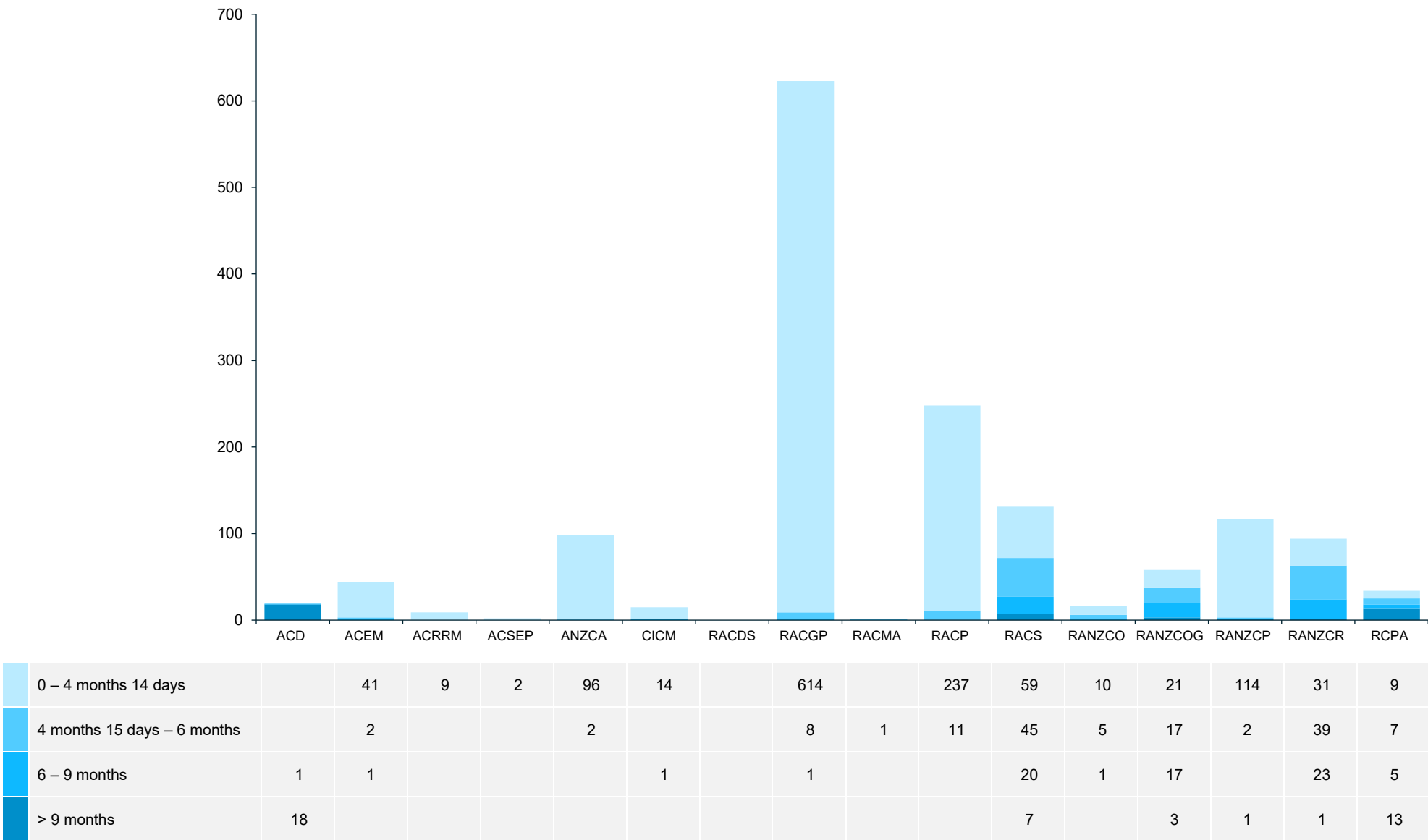


Note: The RACMA SIMG was not told they could respond to the SPR. SPR is a mandatory step, however, two RANZCO substantially comparable SIMGs chose not to have a SPR.

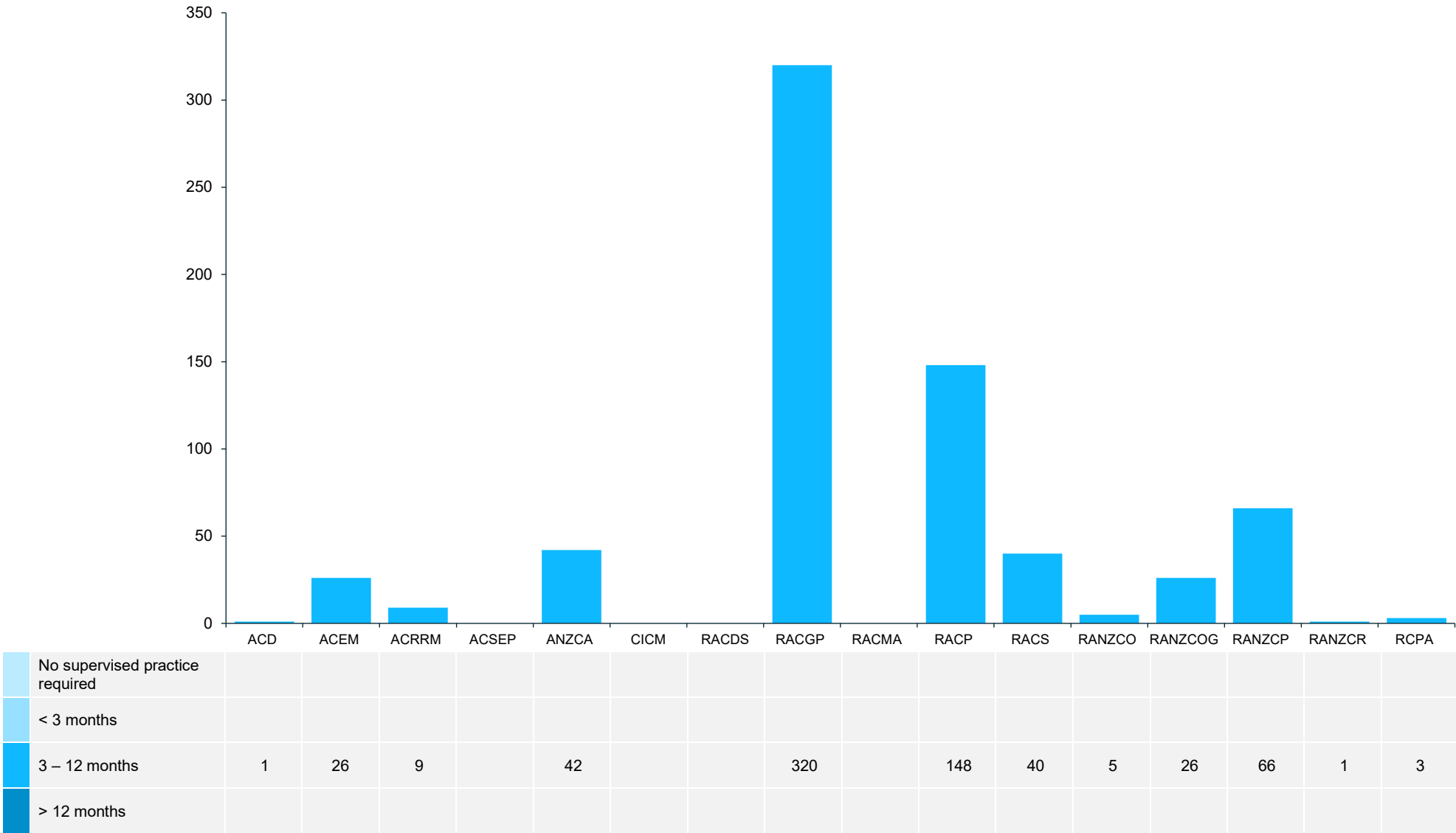
3.2.4 Specialist recognition timeframes: Interim assessment – Summary of Preliminary Review (SPR) after interview: Time from applicant response to decision



3.3 Specialist recognition timeframes: Total time for interim assessment



4.1.1 Specialist recognition requirements: Substantially comparable SIMGs: Period of supervised practice required by college

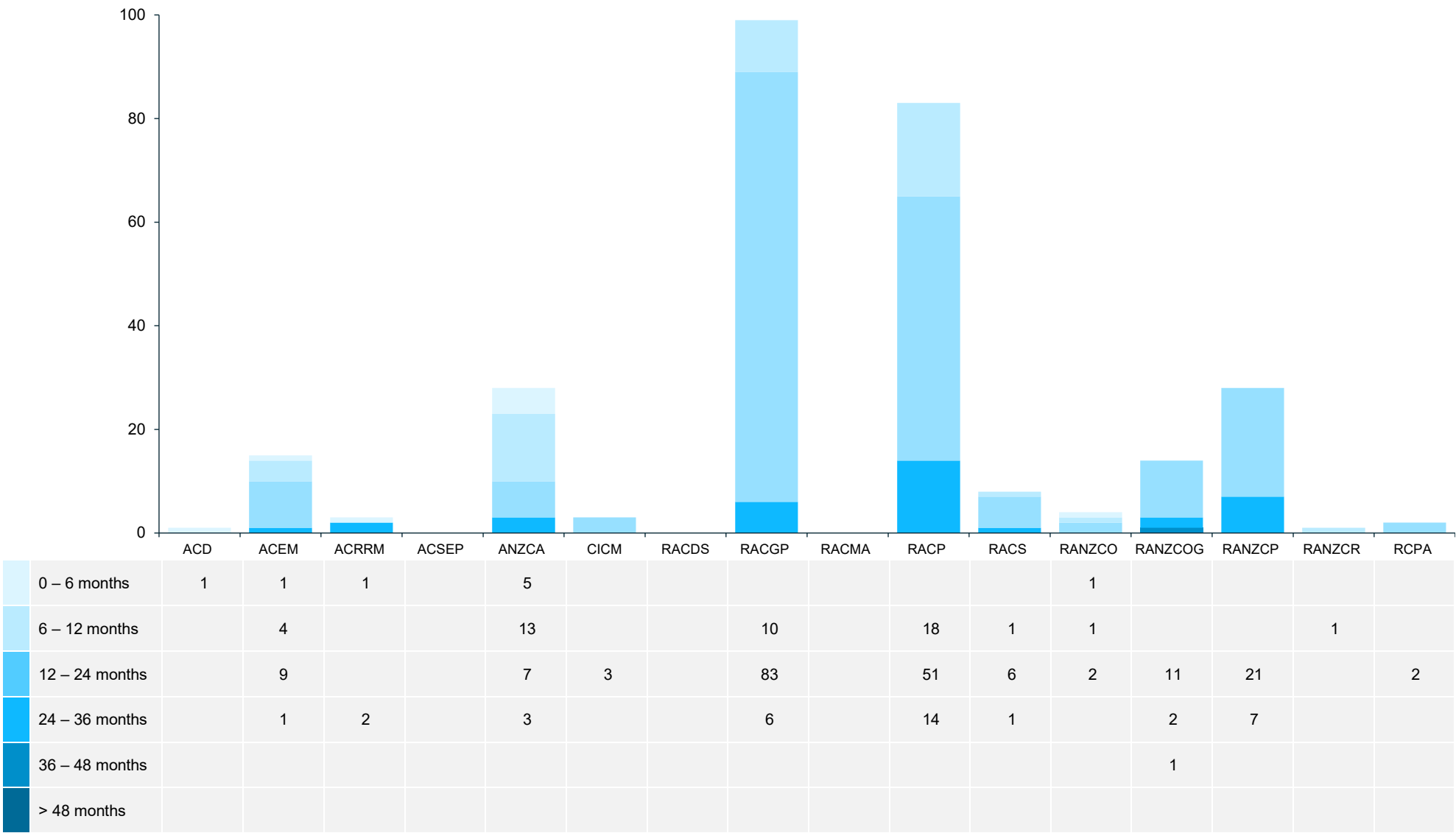




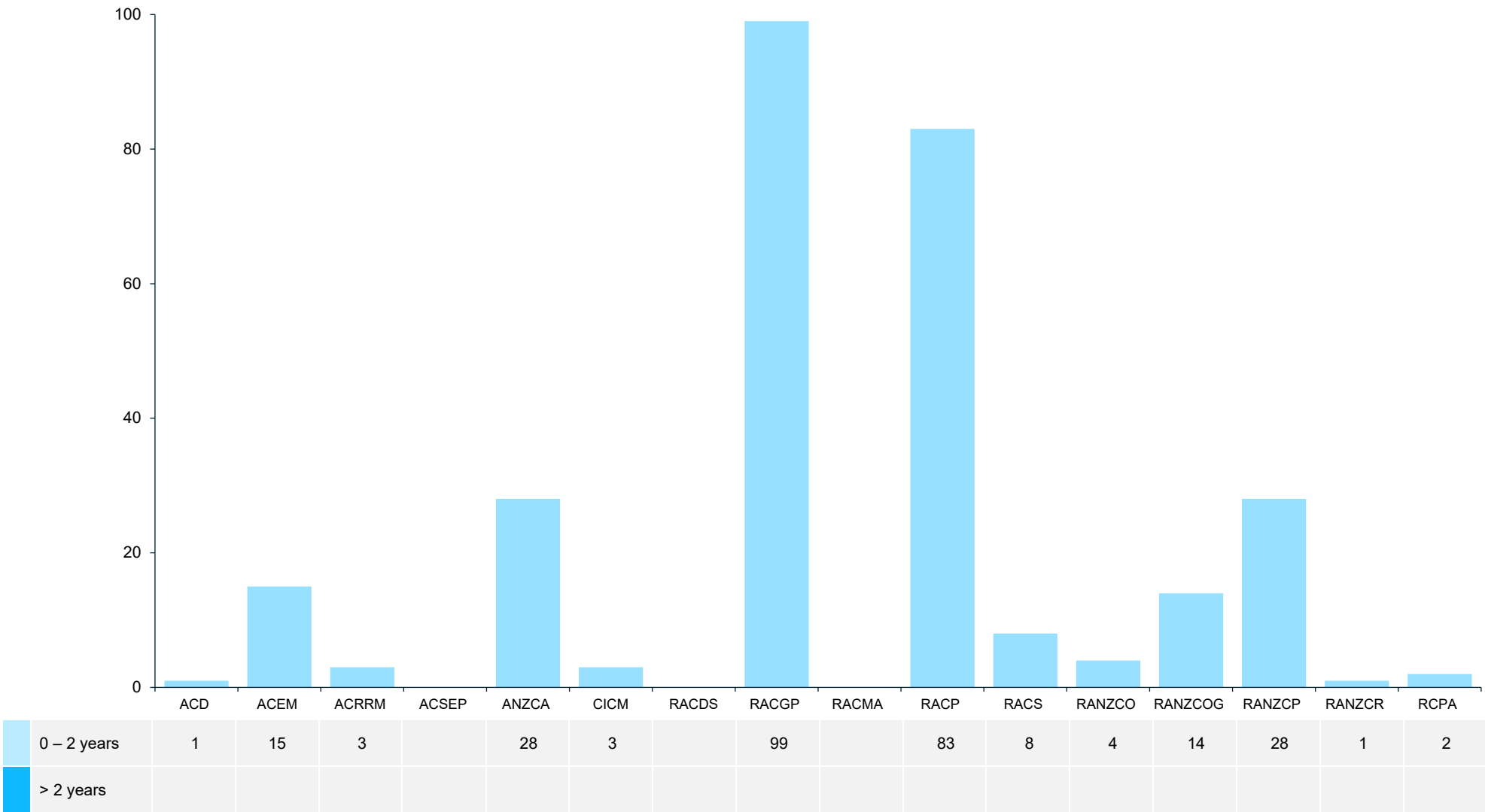
### 4.1.2 Specialist recognition requirements: Substantially comparable SIMGs: Number required to complete exam

No substantially comparable SIMGs were required to complete an exam.

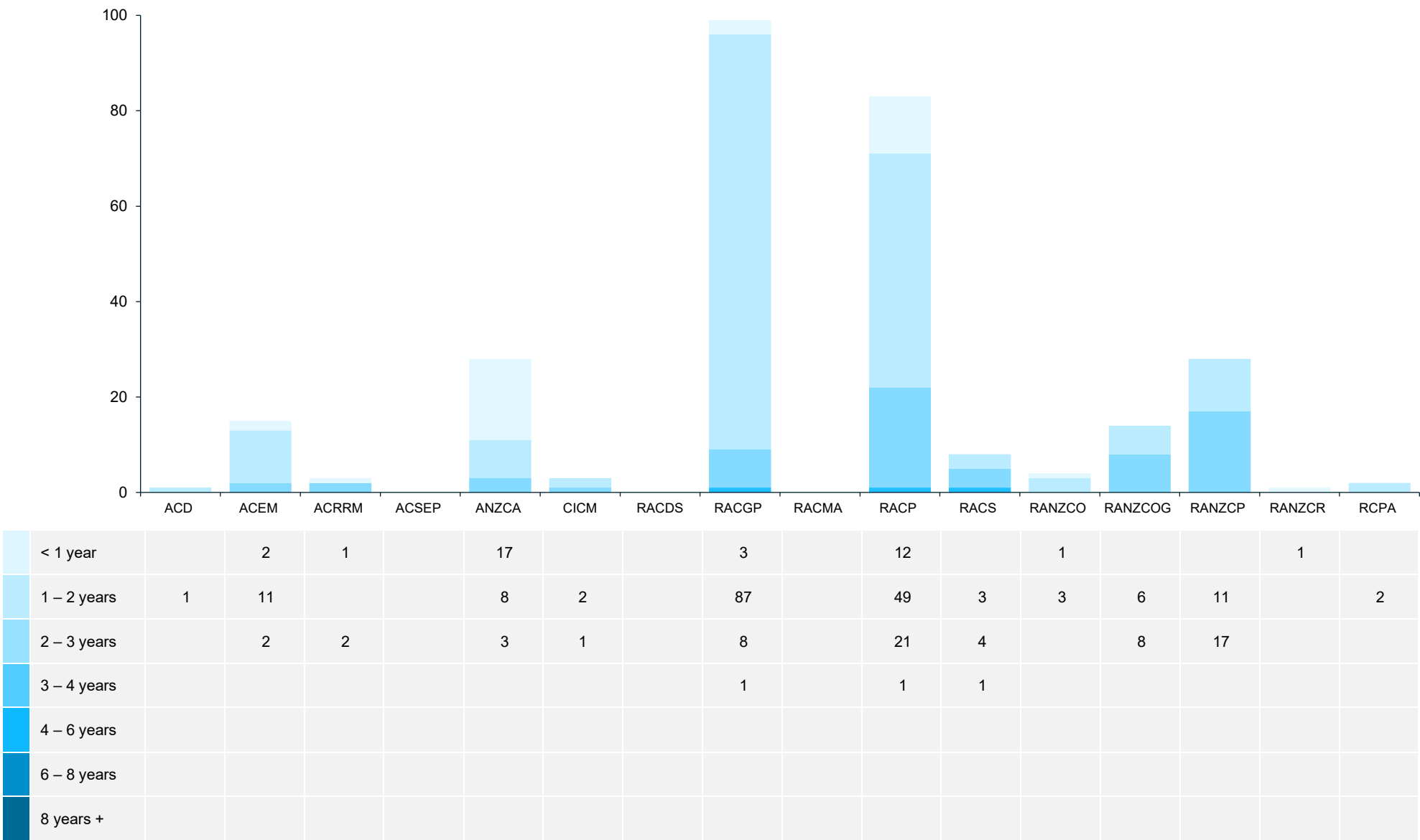
4.1.3 Specialist recognition requirements: Substantially comparable SIMGs: Time for final assessment



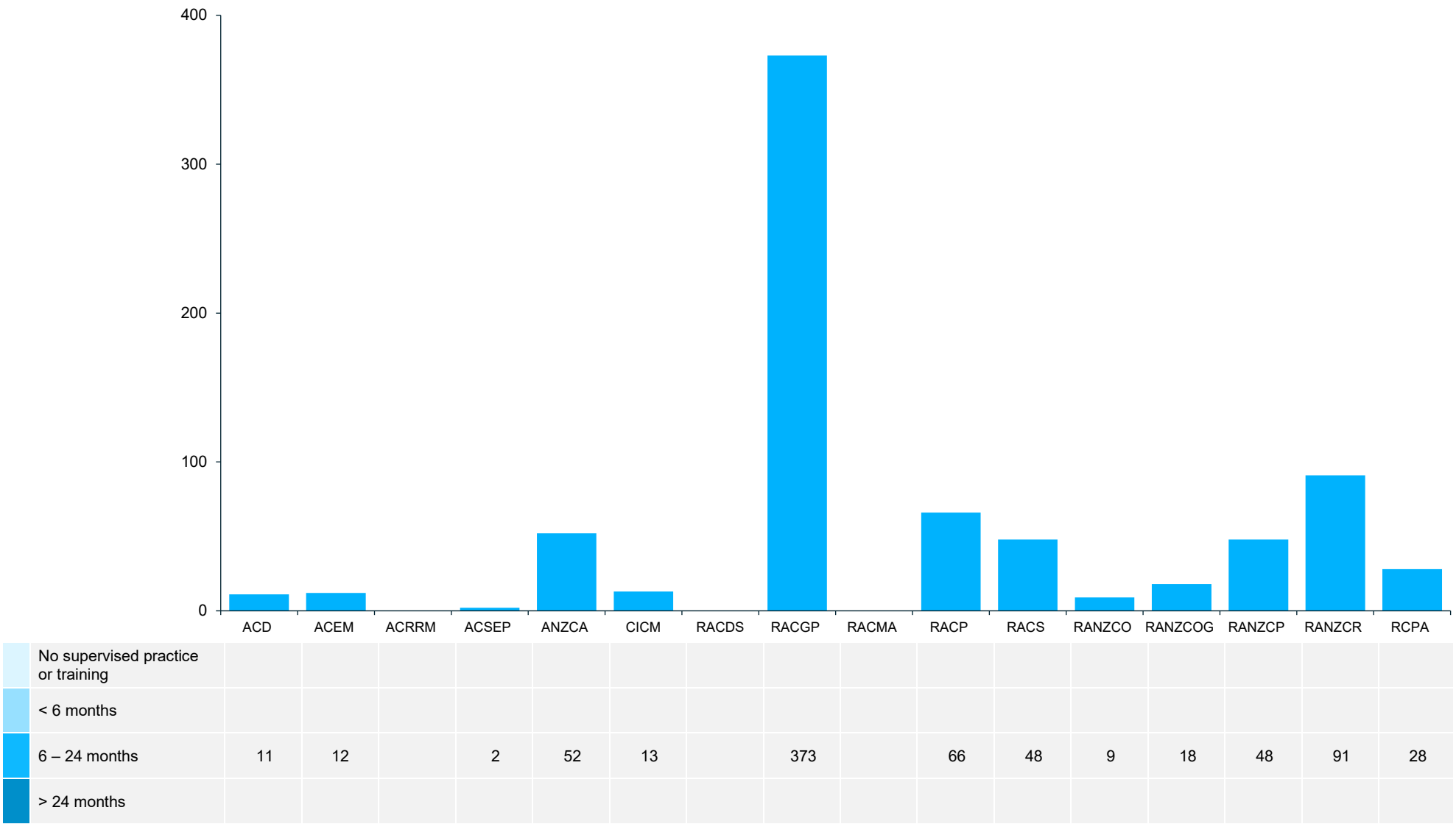
4.1.4 Specialist recognition requirements: Substantially comparable SIMGs: Maximum timeframe for completing college requirements



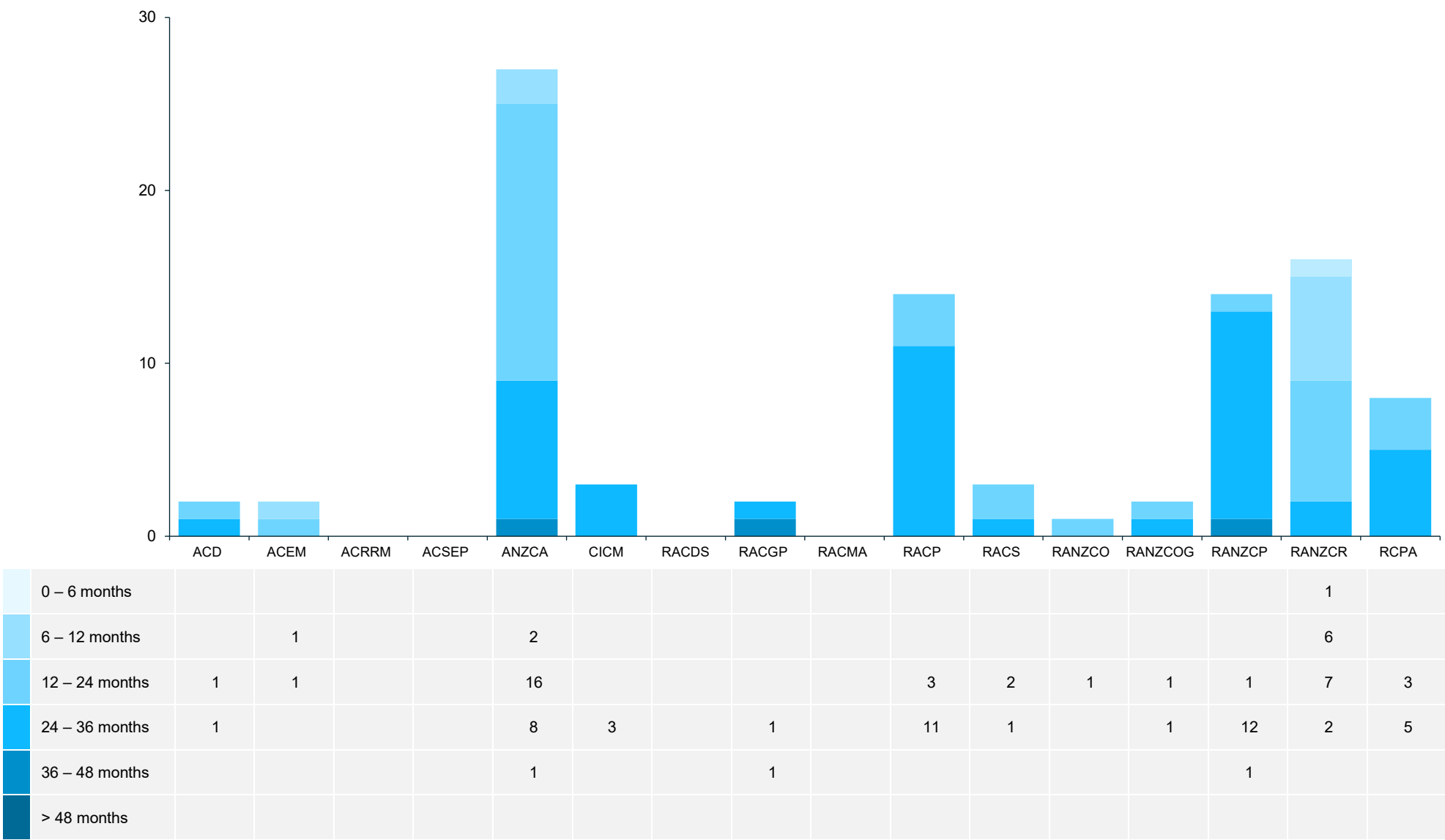
4.1.5 Specialist recognition requirements: Substantially comparable SIMGs: Total time on specialist pathway



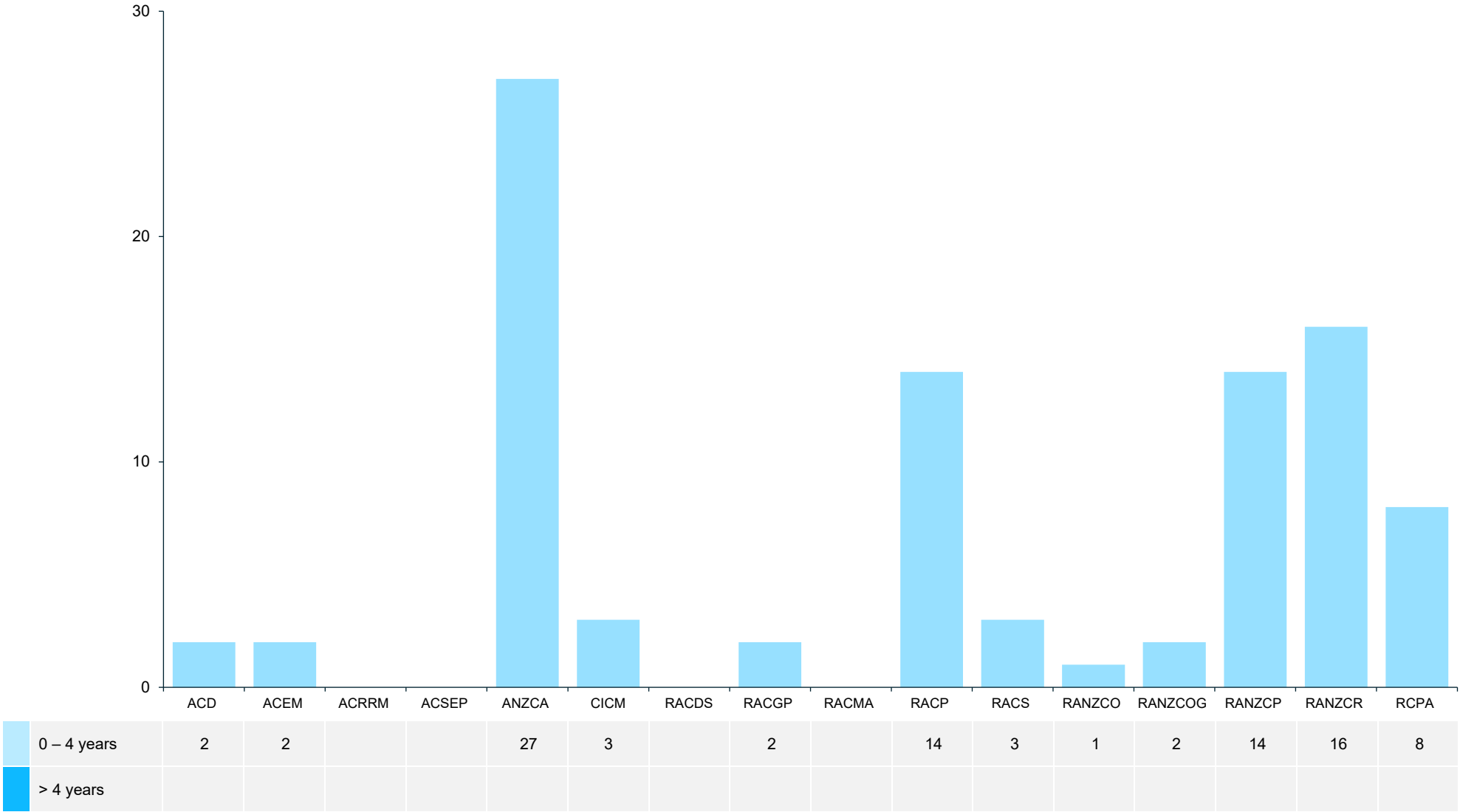
4.2.1 Specialist recognition requirements: Partially comparable SIMGs: Period of supervised practice and/or training required by college



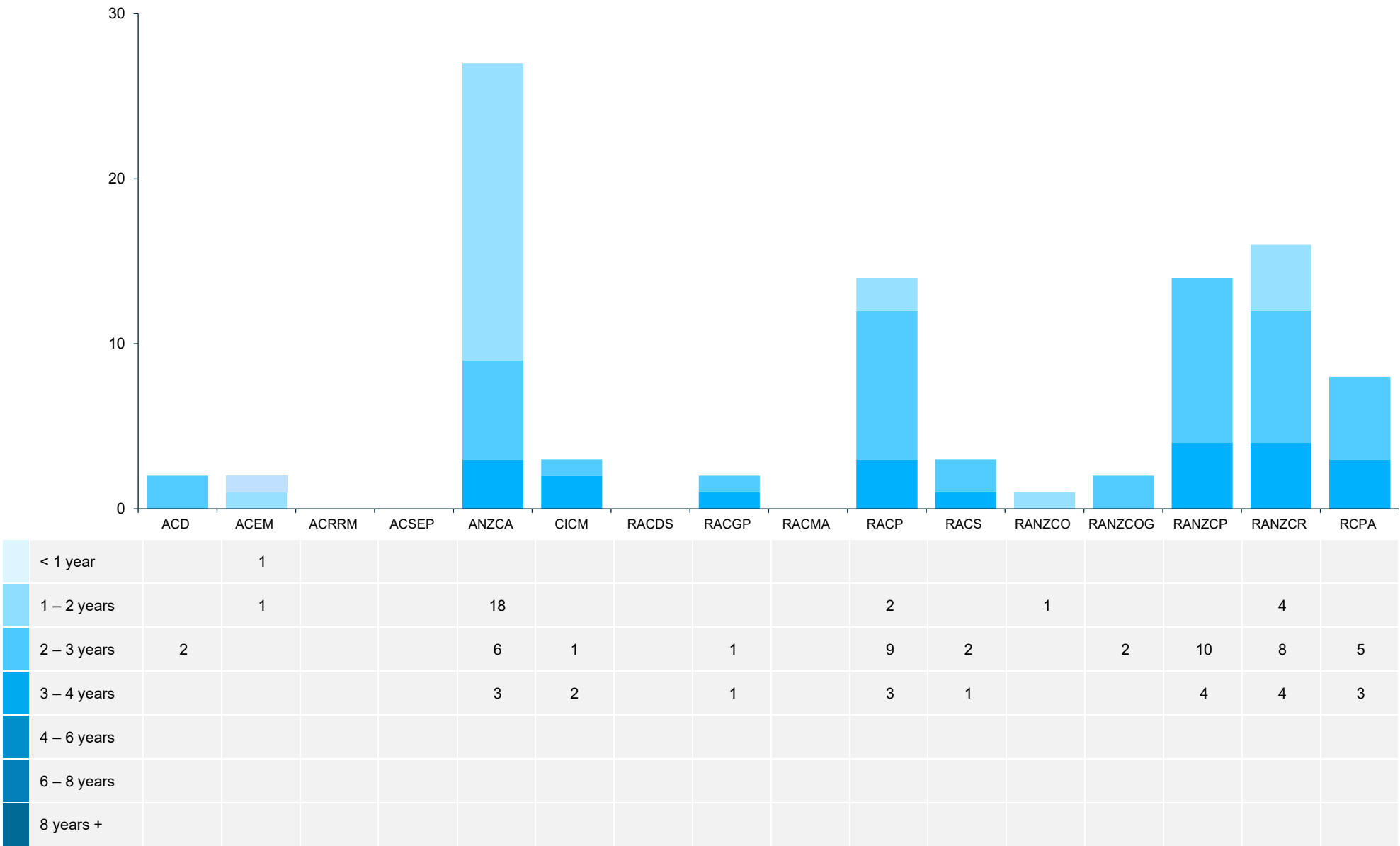
4.2.2 Specialist recognition requirements: Partially comparable SIMGs: Time for final assessment



4.2.3 Specialist recognition requirements: Partially comparable SIMGs: Maximum timeframe for completing college requirements

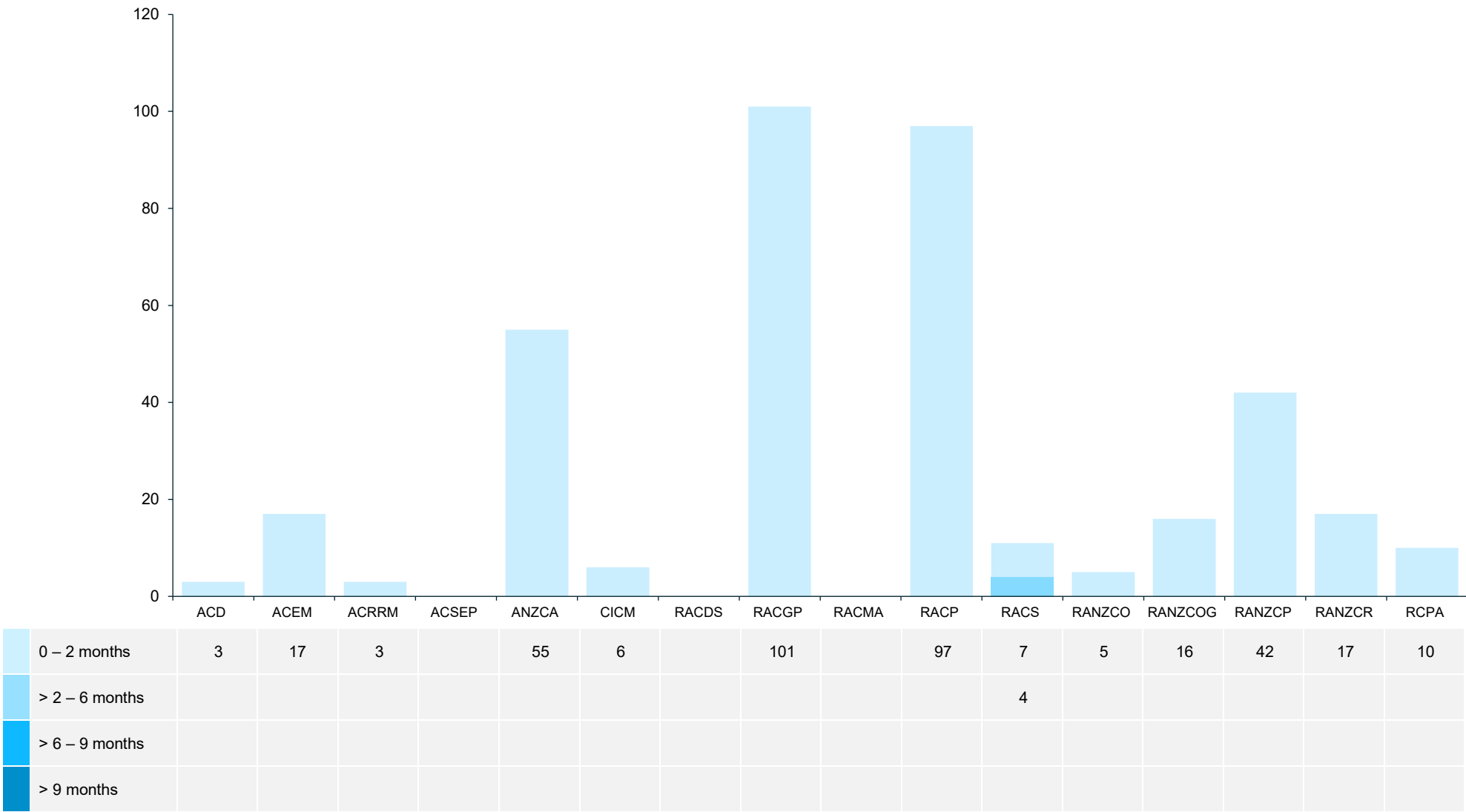


4.2.4 Specialist recognition requirements: Partially comparable SIMGs: Total time on specialist pathway

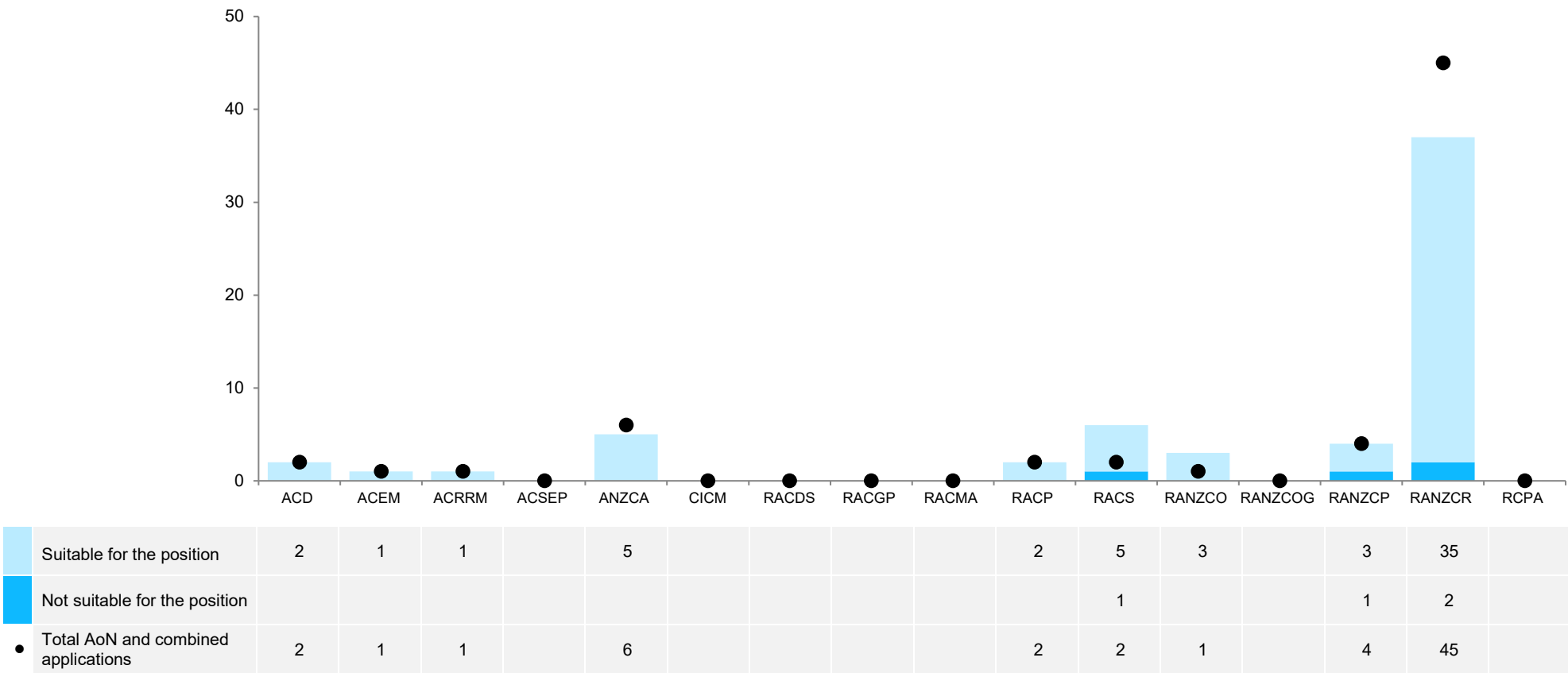




4.3 Specialist recognition timeframes and requirements: Final assessment decision: Time for specialist recognition final assessment decision

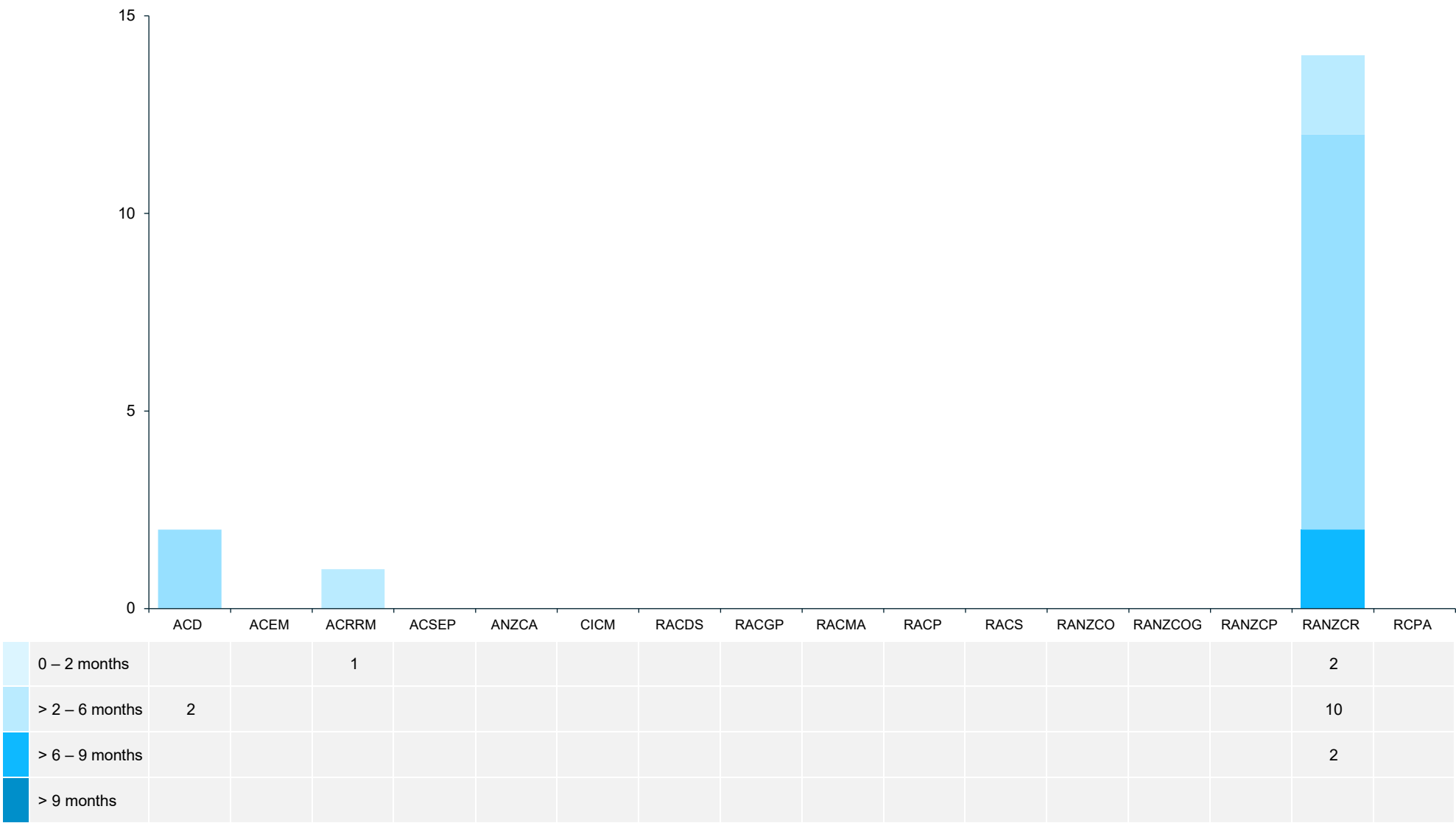


5.1 Area of need outcomes and timeframes: Outcome of assessment



Note: Outcomes of assessment may not total 'Total number of applications received', some assessments were still in progress.

5.2 Area of need outcomes and timeframes: Time for assessment



Note: Excludes combined assessments (where SIMG applied for specialist recognition and area of need)

## 6.1 SIMG country of qualifications: Primary medical degree and specialist qualification - all colleges (data)

Country	Primary qualification	Specialist qualification
Argentina	10	8
Austria	1	1
Bahrain	2	2
Bangladesh	17	7
Belgium	5	4
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1	1
Brazil	16	16
Bulgaria	1	
Canada	11	21
Czech Republic	2	
Chile	3	3
China	13	3
Croatia	1	1
Cuba	3	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3	
Dominica	1	
Ecuador		1
Egypt	44	25
El Salvador	1	
Fiji	1	1
France	4	5
Germany	20	22
Ghana	3	
Grenada	1	
Hong Kong	11	11
Hungary	2	
India	289	208
Indonesia	4	2
Iran	92	91
Iraq	10	3

Country	Primary qualification	Specialist qualification
Ireland	26	21
Israel	8	9
Italy	6	5
Japan	4	4
Jordan	3	5
Kazakhstan	2	
Kenya	12	13
Latvia	1	
Lebanon	4	2
Libya	2	
Malawi	1	
Malaysia	25	26
Malta	1	1
Mauritius	2	
Myanmar	12	1
Nepal	9	6
Netherlands	8	8
New Zealand		20
Niger	1	
Nigeria	85	48
North Macedonia	1	1
Norway	4	4
Oman	1	1
Pakistan	251	61
Philippines	57	55
Poland	5	3
Portugal	1	1
Qatar		16
Romania	4	1
Russia	23	2

Country	Primary qualification	Specialist qualification
Rwanda	1	1
Saudi Arabia	8	8
Serbia	1	1
Seychelles	1	
Singapore	5	5
South Africa	52	66
South Korea	4	4
Spain	11	13
Sri Lanka	129	90
Sudan	49	4
Sweden	4	6
Switzerland	5	6
Syria	6	7
Taiwan	1	1
Tanzania	1	1
Thailand	3	3
Turkey	14	13
Uganda	1	1
Ukraine	5	
United Arab Emirates	6	2
United Kingdom	230	683
United States of America	25	33
Uzbekistan	1	
Venezuela	1	1
Vietnam	1	1
Yemen	1	
Zimbabwe	5	1

6.2 SIMG country of qualifications: Primary medical degree and specialist qualification - all colleges (graph)

