



Background

- Rates of unemployment and underemployment for people on the autism spectrum remain among the highest in Canada^a
• Various social and skill-related challenges and barriers to employment exist for job-seekers with autism^b
• Employment supports are needed but little is known about the specific tools or resources that are useful to job seekers with autism^{c,d}
• Online employment resources are recommended, but few tailored online resources for job seekers with disabilities are available^{c,d}

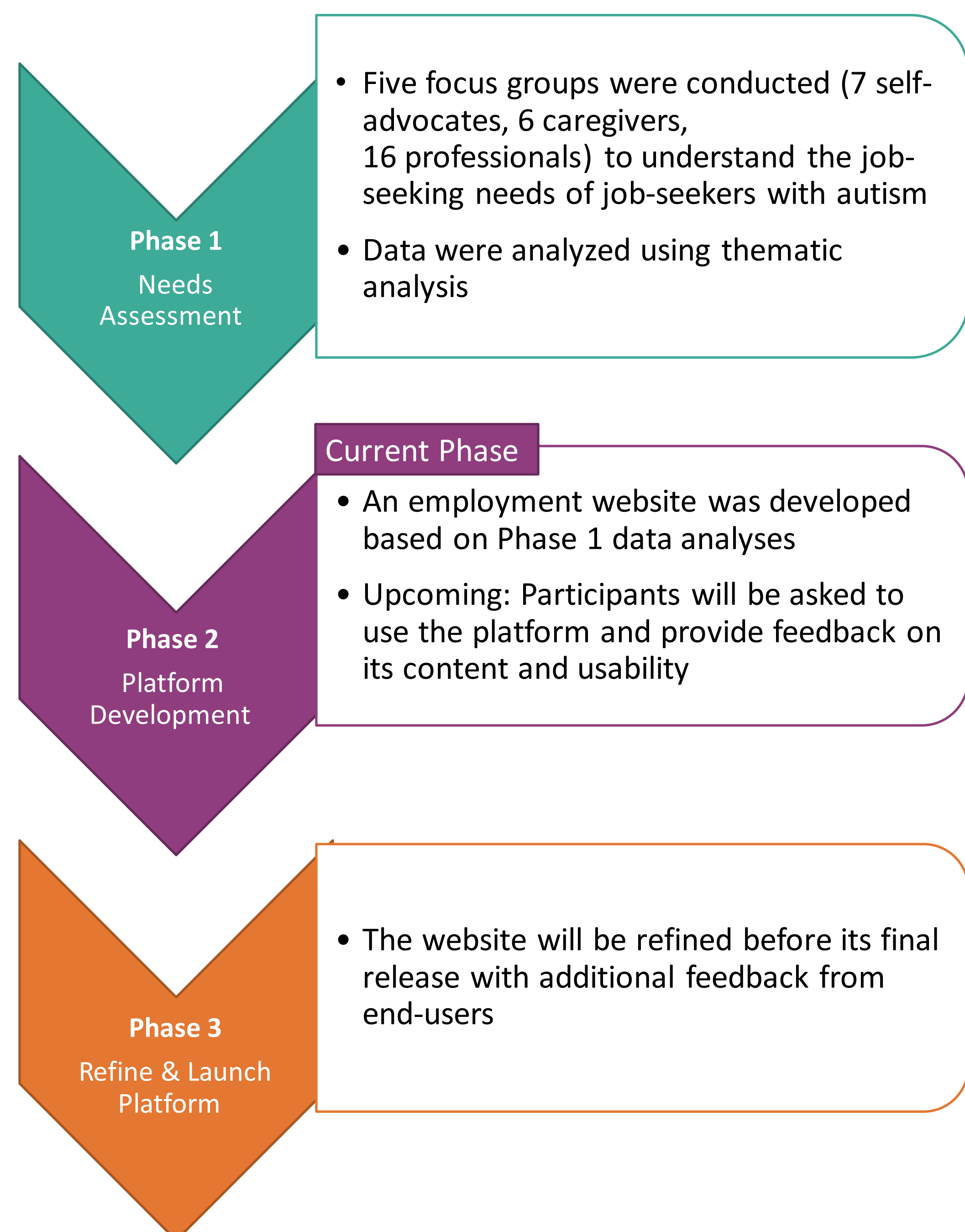
Objective

The aim of the project is to develop a dynamic and end-user informed, online platform that addresses the employment needs of people in the autism community

Research Questions:

1. What is important for job-seekers with autism to enter the workforce successfully that is amenable to an online platform?
2. How can the information collected be used to develop an online platform to address their needs?

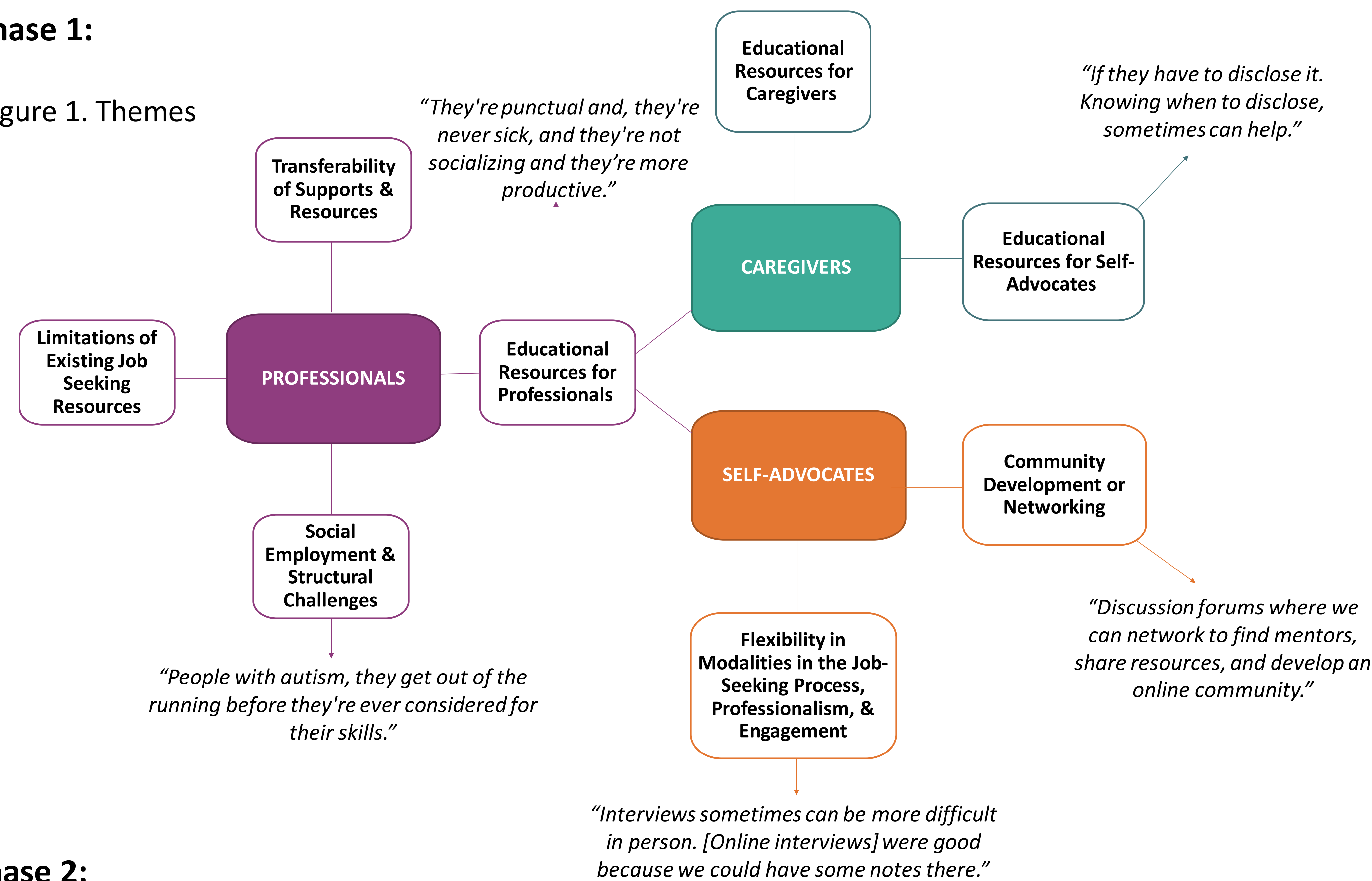
Method



Results

Phase 1:

Figure 1. Themes



Phase 2:

Figure 2. Ready2Work Website Main Page

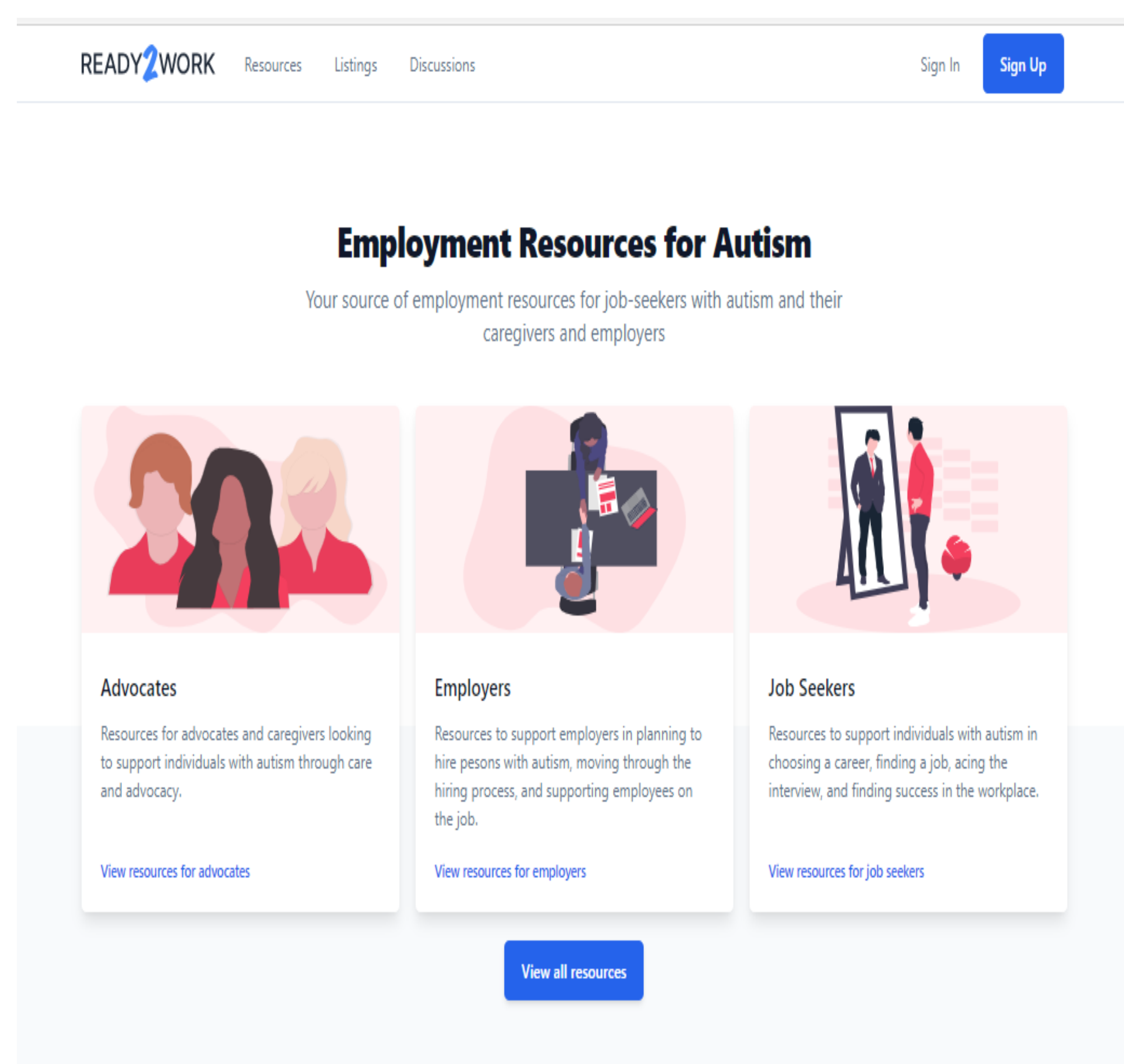


Figure 3. Feedback Questionnaire

Discussion

- This research study demonstrates an innovative approach to developing an online employment resource in which end-users and key stakeholders are engaged throughout the process
• Phase 1 focus group findings informed the development of an employment website in Phase 2
• Phase 2 participants will be provided with website tasks to complete; feedback will be collected on the relevance and usability of the website
• Phase 2 participant feedback will be used to refine the website before its official launch where we will collect additional data from website users on their perceived work readiness
• Results from this study will add to the limited knowledge of the work readiness skills and helpful resources tailored to the idiosyncratic needs of job-seekers on the autism spectrum

References

a. Statistics Canada. (2018, November 28). Canadian Survey on Disabilities, 2017. Retrieved from: https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/dailyquotidien/181128/dq181128a-eng.htm
b. Hendricks, D. (2010). Employment and adults with autism spectrum disorders: Challenges and strategies for success. Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation, 32(2), 125-134.
c. Dudley, C., Nicholas, D. B., & Zwicker, J. (2015). What do we know about improving employment outcomes for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder? SPP Research Paper, 8(32).
d. Seaman, R. L., & Cannella-Malone, H. I. (2016). Vocational skills interventions for adults with autism spectrum disorder: A review of the literature. Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities, 28(3), 479-494.

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Watch our Child-Bright Webinar (Oct 2020) with the QR Code below:

