

Reviewer's report

Title: "HealthKick" : Formative assessment of the health environment in low-resource primary schools in the Western Cape Province of South Africa

Version: 2 **Date:** 9 July 2012

Reviewer: Patricia P Struthers

Reviewer's report:

When assessing the work, please consider the following points:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?

Yes it is clear what the study was focusing on.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?

Yes, the methods are appropriate and well described.

3. Are the data sound?

Yes, according to the information the given the data appear to be sound.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?

Yes this is a clearly written article.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

Yes, the discussion and conclusions are appropriate.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?

Yes, it is made clear that the article reports on only one part of a larger study.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?

Yes.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Yes.

9. Is the writing acceptable?

Yes

Specific suggestions for revision:

1. Abstract. To clarify that it is the principals' views that the educators and parents consider these items most important important.

This also needs to be clarified in the section on Questionnaire (in Methods) para

3, that it is the principal's perceived view of the priorities of learners, educators and parents.

2. Results: General environment... line 3: I would like to have seen the actual %. The final sentence refers to child abuse and neglect, and relates this to quintile. However, there were no Q1 schools in urban areas, and so the rural/urban difference is not presented and may account for this difference. this information might be important.

3. Discussion: Note the national curriculum has changed with the introduction of CAPS. The information on schools and curriculum interventions needs to include this.

4. Discussion: top of page 14 - who get the income? the school or vendor. Implications are different.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.