Reviewer's report

Title: Mediators between bereavement and functional somatic symptoms

Version: 1 Date: 26 April 2012

Reviewer: Thomas A Buckley

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this well written manuscript that makes a significant contribution to this area of research. The manuscript is well written and the methods/results articulated clearly. The findings support the importance of recognising the role anxiety and to a lesser extent depression may have in bereavement.

I would suggest the following minor considerations:

On page &, please replace ‘Doctor” with health care professionals” or “clinicians”.

Page 8, the conclusion is not very strong and implies that anxiety or depression symptoms are a “mental disorder” which is arguable in the context of bereavement. To conclude that anxiety and depression should be ‘treated' would need to be supported.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests.