Reviewer's report

Title: A cross-sectional study to compare care needs of individuals with and without dementia in residential homes

Version: 3 Date: 15 February 2013

Reviewer: julie cartwright

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. English is not the native language of the authors. While their skills in developing this manuscript in English are very impressive, the manuscript needs to be proofed by a technical editor with expertise in both the Dutch and English (UK version) languages. There are numerous technical errors and the writing style is at times awkward and distracting to the reader (verb tenses). Also, correct formatting of numbers in text needs to be edited throughout.
2. The 'N' for the proxy participants is identified as 36 and 57 in different paragraphs on pg 7. The authors need to decide which number is correct or explain the differences.
3. Participants are sometimes referred to as having 'probable' dementia (e.g., the abstract); mostly as having dementia. This is confusing. The authors need to decide which term they will use and be consistent.

Discretionary revision
1. For the section labelled 'Measures and measurements,' I suggest that the authors re-order the discussion of the measures as follows:
   1. Dementia
   2. CANE
   3. GARS
   4. demographics

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.