Reviewer's report

Title: Gender differences in the use of transportation services to community rehabilitation programs

Version: 1 Date: 5 September 2008

Reviewer: Ian D Cameron

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
Nil

Minor Essential Revisions

For international readers more background should be given. In some countries home based rehabilitation is available for people unable to access community based rehabilitation. Is this available in Japan, and how many people access these services if they are available? If this treatment is available it would lessen the concern that women are not able to access centre based community rehabilitation programs.

The mean age of the participants (late 60s) is much less than for participants in similar programs in other countries. The researchers should make some comment about this. Given the long life expectancy in Japan why is the mean age not in the 80s?

Furthermore, the mean level of disability is relatively limited, and the prevalence of dementia is very low. This suggests that the centre based community programs are catering for people with limited healthcare needs. In other countries this would be termed social day care. The authors should clarify this.

The conclusions that the researchers have reached seem correct, and the reviewer agrees that women with limited levels of functioning are much less likely to access centre based community rehabilitation programs. There could be limited comment about possible strategies to address this, for example greater ability of the driver of the transport vehicle to assist the older person from the house into the vehicle.

Discretionary revisions
Nil

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.