Author’s response to reviews

Title: The early postnatal period: exploring women’s views, expectations and experiences of care using focus groups in Victoria, Australia

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
The Editor  
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth  

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Dear Editor,  

Re: response to reviews on the paper entitled “The early postnatal period: exploring women’s views, expectations and experiences of care using focus groups in Victoria, Australia”.  

Thank you for the re-reviews of the above paper. Please find below a detailed point by point response to all the reviewers comments.  

Please let us know if there are further changes that should be addressed.  

Thank you again for considering this paper,  

Yours sincerely  

Della Forster
Reviewer one: Edwin van Teijlingen

1. Two quotes of postnatal women do not identify whether or not the hospital is public or private (pages 6 and 7).

In the instances referred to it was not possible to identify if specific women had received private or public care. There was some of each in the groups in question. These groups were new mothers groups, and not confined to women from a particular hospital. Therefore although it is possible to identify that the group was a mix of women who had received public and private care, it was not always possible in the transcripts to identify each individual in this way. In the second last paragraph of the methods we do say that we have included these descriptors “where possible”. That is:

“Quotes were chosen to best illustrate the themes emerging from data analysis and the speaker was identified only by (where known) parity, rural/urban focus group location, public/private status and if the woman was pregnant or had already had her baby, e.g. (primiparous, non-metropolitan, public, postnatal).”

2. At the end of each quote after the identifier should there be a full stop?

I have checked with some other articles on BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth and found that some quotes in articles (including an article of mine) are presented in the same way we have done at this point. So I have left the formatting of the quotes as they were, but am happy to change these if the Editorial team want me to.

Reviewer two: Susan Watt

No revisions suggested

Reviewer four: Marie Berg

3. I see the abstract is too long. Is this really accepted following the norms of the journal?

The abstract has been shortened, mainly in the methods and results sections.

4. Abstract – under results – the sentences in brackets should be deleted.

This has been done.

5. Results – themes. Here the same text in brackets are presented. But please, delete the brackets, keep the text the same but change it to grammatically “full sentences”. The information within the brackets is very important and should be given the same status as other text.

The brackets have been removed where requested.

6. The theme “infant feeding”: This dimension is important but according to the introduction text above, should be labelled “breastfeeding”, as nothing about infant feeding in general is mentioned. The focus in the text is breastfeeding.
The title of the section has been changed to breastfeeding as suggested.

_I also see the content in the paragraph as insufficient. In the text before you talk about the need of support in breastfeeding, etc please change the title to breastfeeding and try to develop the theme further including the need of support._

We do not feel that we should extrapolate on the findings presented in the paragraph in question. The theme is presented as we found it to be. There is further discussion of professional support in the following section. The women’s focus in terms of the need for professional support was much more on the issue of keeping the baby ‘safe’ as opposed to a need for more breastfeeding support, and the text as it is currently written represents this.