Author's response to reviews

Title: Acceptability of the Distress Thermometer and Problem List to community-based telephone cancer helpline operators, and cancer patients and carers.

Authors:

Karen L Hughes (AnnaHawkes@cancerqld.org.au)
Hilary Sargeant (AnnaHawkes@cancerqld.org.au)
Anna L Hawkes (AnnaHawkes@cancerqld.org.au)

Version: 5 Date: 28 October 2010

Author's response to reviews:

27th October 2010

Editors
BMC Cancer

Dear Editor,

Please find attached final responses to the reviewers comments for the publication “Feasibility of brief psychological distress screening by a community-based telephone helpline for cancer patients and carers - 3598847282899113.”.

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication. I look forward to your future correspondence regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

Anna L Hawkes
Associate Professor
Senior Research Fellow
Viertel Centre for Research in Cancer Control
Cancer Council Queensland

1) Section 'Callers' p.9. Should the first sentence read, 'Callers were a mixed cancer group of 375 cancer patients and 291 carers ....'? If not, what are the authors trying to say.

This section has now been changed to 'Callers were a mixed-cancer group
(n=666) including cancer patients (n=375) and carers (n=291)’ (paragraph 1, page 9).

2) Suggestion: Change subtitle 'Predictors of use of the DT and PL' to 'Factors predicting operators' use of the DT and PL'.

The subtitle has been changed to 'Factors predicting operators' use of the DT and PL'.

3) In section 'Barriers to use of the DT and PL, I have the denominator value for patients = 35, not 32 and carers = 33, not 36. Ideally, it would be better to represent these in a table (but this is not necessary provided all your numbers cross-match. Please can you check your calculations again for pp9-11 to ensure that it is the case and that they are consistent.

This section has been corrected as highlighted and percentages have also been rounded to the nearest whole number (pages 9-11).

4) Can the percentages be rounded up to the nearest whole number? ie. 18.8% rounded to 19%.

The percentages have been rounded up to whole numbers throughout.